

Parks Recreation and Culture Report PRC 2024-15

To: Council
Date: November 19, 2024
Subject: Tree Protection By-law Update
Origin: Parks, Recreation and Culture - Parks Branch

Recommendations

1. That Parks Recreation and Culture Report PRC2024-15, dated November 19, 2024 entitled “Tree Protection By-law Update,” be received; and
2. That Council adopt the Tree Protection By-law as presented; and
3. That Council direct staff to report back in one year with an update and progress report; and
4. That Council update the Fees and Charges By-law 2015 – 078 to include the Tree Replacement and Compensation Value as referenced in this report; and
5. That Council approve initial funding for arborist services for the remainder of 2024 to a maximum of \$35,000 and that staff include a request for contract arborist services in the 2025 budget.

Purpose

To provide Council with the Tree Protection By-law for Council adoption.

Background

At Committee of the Whole dated October 8, 2024 Parks Recreation and Culture Report PRC2024 – 09 presented a Draft Tree-Protection By-law to Council. At this meeting Council approved in principle the enactment and implementation of the Tree Protection By-law as presented in the Report. Council provided direction to staff to perform further public consultation and to develop separate compensation standards for the exercise of good farming practice and the creation of new farmland. Additionally, Council directed

staff to report back at the October 22, 2024, Council meeting for consideration. Staff reported back to Council in Parks Recreation and Culture Report PRC 2024–13 on October 22, 2024 with an update and recommendation to seek further public consultation and report back on November 19, 2024.

The following link provides all past reporting to Council related to the process for the Draft Tree Protection By-law since 2021 under Background and Resources.

<https://www.eastgwillimbury.ca/en/news/tree-protection-by-law.aspx>

Analysis

Expanded and Enhanced Communications

Public consultation for the Draft Tree Protection By-law has been provided since 2021 including posting of the Draft Tree Protection By-law online, Public Open Houses, Public Reports to Council and Website and Social Media updates for residents.

Parks Recreation and Culture staff have worked with Communications to update the website and social media messaging related to the Draft Tree Protection By-law. Updates include information related to:

- The purpose of the By-law
- Exemptions under the Draft Tree Protection By-law for Private Property Owners
- How the By-law effects property owners separate from the York Region Forest Conservation By-law
- Access to property
- Appeals process

Staff provided a direct link on the website with the Draft Tree Protection By-law, information and common questions related to the Draft Tree Protection By-law. Further staff released social media posts. **Attachment 1** provides the **Tree Protection By-law Website and Social Media Updates and Common Questions and Answers**

A link to the Draft Tree Protection By-law and common questions and answers can be found at: <https://www.eastgwillimbury.ca/en/news/tree-protection-by-law.aspx>

Public Outreach and Input into the Draft Tree Protection By-law

Over the duration of three years staff received the following input by way of public meeting comments, correspondence and deputations from residents and business owners (Farming Industry) at the time of this report to Council:

Support for the By-law	7
Objection to the By-law	20
Requests to Amend the By-law	4

Staff have made best efforts to respond to comments, concerns and input into the Draft Tree Protection By-law with correspondence and meetings directly with residents and the farming industry.

Responding to Input into the Draft By-law for Added Amendments

Attachment 2 provides the **Amended Tree Protection By-law**.

Staff reviewed the Public Feedback for Adjustments to the Draft Tree Protection By-law including:

- Access to private property
- An Appeals Process
- Further definition to exemptions
- Further definition to Fines and Penalties
- A separate exemption for Normal Farm Practice
- Special Provisions to support Normal Farm Practice
- A separate process for tree compensation to support Normal Farm Practice

Staff worked with the York Region Federation of Agriculture to support Normal Farm Practice

Staff have conducted seven (7) meetings with the York Region Federation of Agriculture in an effort to support normal farm practices within the Draft Tree Protection By-law. Special provisions for normal farm practice include:

- A separate process to exempt Normal Farm Practice in the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine
- Application of the By-law for tree removals for Normal Farm Practice in the Central Growth and Settlement Areas
- Additional exemptions for Normal Farm Practice based on farm property size
- A separate tree *Farms and Forests* exemption standard for Normal Farm Practice in the Central Growth and Settlement Areas developed with the York Region Federation of Agriculture
- Priority access for farm equipment
- Provision to remove trees to create additional farmland and to maintain farm operations

Exemption in the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine for Normal Farm Practice presents a minimal risk to the Tree Canopy in East Gwillimbury

Providing an exemption for Normal Farm Practice in the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine presents a minimal risk to the tree canopy in East Gwillimbury as this area is already within the Provincial legislated area and the York Region forestry By-law applies to a significant area of woodlands and woodlots within this overall area.

A Process to define Normal Farm Practice with the York Region Federation of Agriculture and the Normal Farm Practices Protection Board (NFPPB)

Provisions to define Normal Farm Practice with the York Region Federation of Agriculture and Normal Farm Practices Protection Board (NFPPB) have been provided in the Tree Protection By-law. If required an additional process to review Normal Farm Practice with the NFPPB has been provided within Tree Protection By-law.

Special *Farm and Forest* Special Replacement and Compensation Rate for Normal Farm Practice is an Innovative Industry Leading Approach to Support Normal Farm Practice

As per the Parks Design Standards tree replacement or compensation is based on the Total Aggregate DBH (Diameter at Breast Height) method. This includes a total accumulated replacement of the total caliper DBH of all trees being removed to meet a replacement value of 6cm DBH trees by way of replacement/re-planting or financial compensation. To support Normal Farm Practice in the Central and Growth Areas Town staff developed a Farm and Forest Special Replacement and Compensation rate for owner operated farms. This special compensation rate will be provided in the Parks Design Standards. The Farm and Forest program provides the following special replacement and compensation provisions beyond any exemptions within the Tree Protection By-law:

- Replacement ratio of 1:1 (one tree replacement/re-planting or compensation for each tree removed). Replacement is based on the Town Tree Replacement or Compensation value.
- Replacement/re-planting or compensation can occur with multiple stock of trees to meet the Town Base Compensation Standard.
- In an effort to create more usable farmland replacement/re-planting can occur all or in part on the farmer owned operated sites including multiple sites within Town if required.
- In an effort to create more usable farmland an option for replacement/re-planting on Town property will be provided, subject to Town approval, if planting on the owner operated site is not possible or feasible.

Details for the **Farm and Forest Special Replacement and Compensation Rate and Update to the Town Tree Replacement and Compensation Value** is provided with **Attachment 3**.

Update to the Town Fees and Charges By-law 2015 – 078 Schedule L is Required

Currently the compensation rate for tree replacement/re-planting or compensation is provided in the Parks Design Standards. Town staff are recommending an update to include the Town Tree Replacement and Compensation Value in the Town Fees and Charges By-law 2015 – 078 Schedule L to include a 6 cm DBH tree at an annual market rate. Attachment 3 provides the update to the Town Tree Replacement and Compensation Value.

At the time of the last meeting the York Region Federation of Agriculture was in support of the amendments to the By-law to support Normal Farm Practice.

Financial Implications

Estimated Costs

- Cost impact including arborist services in the amount not to exceed \$35,000 will be required for initial implementation of the Tree Protection By-law for the remainder of 2024.
- Costs including contract staff salary and equipment is estimated at \$100,000 for on-going implementation of the Tree Protection By-law in 2025. A request for funding will be included with the 2025 Budget.

The funding source for the 2024 and 2025 budget requests will be provided by the Tree Planting and Protection Reserve Account, which will be established at a subsequent Council meeting.

Need For Public Consultation

This report is provided in public session. Public communication has been provided through the website and social media.

Alignment to Strategic Plan

Responsible Growth

Environmental Stewardship

Strategic Priorities:

“Ensure development occurs in an intentional, sustainable fashion, with a focus on preserving the Town’s cultural heritage and environmental features.”

“Support the stewardship, preservation, conservation, and enhancement of the natural environmental of East Gwillimbury.”

“Develop and implement policies that supports environmental sustainability and best practices.”

“Develop and implement programs and policies that support climate change adaptation, mitigation, and resiliency.”

Key Deliverables:

“Strengthen EG’s tree preservation and protection program.”

Conclusion

That Council adopt and enact the Tree Protection By-law with a report back to Council after 1 (one) year of implementation. Staff seek Council approval to update the Fees and Charges By-law to include the Town Tree Replacement and Compensation Value and Approval of an amount not to exceed \$35,000 for initial implementation of the Tree Protection By-law for the remainder of 2024 and a request for funding for contracted staff and equipment be included with the 2025 Budget.

Appendices

Attachment 1 - Tree Protection By-law Website and Social Media Updates and Common Questions and Answers

Attachment 2 - Amended Tree Protection By-law

Attachment 3 - Farm and Forest Special Replacement and Compensation Rate and Update to the Town Tree Replacement and Compensation Value

Approval

Report Author and recommended by:

Aaron Karmazyn
General Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture

This report was approved by:

Mark Valcic
Chief Administrative Officer
Office of the CAO



FAQ

EG's Draft Tree Protection By-law

The Town has developed a draft tree protection by-law for private properties to protect mature trees in EG. The goal of the by-law is to protect existing tree canopy and preserve natural heritage areas throughout our community. The new draft by-law addresses the removal of trees with a trunk diameter of 20 cm or greater.

[View the Draft By-law](#)

[View the Webpage](#)

Can I remove trees on my residential property?

The draft tree protection by-law allows residents to:

- Remove up to three live, healthy trees that do not individually exceed 30 cm diameter per year
- Prune or maintain trees
- Remove dead, dying, diseased trees
- Remove trees that pose an immediate threat to persons or property
- Remove trees as part of emergency work
- Remove trees with a diameter of less than 20 cm
- Remove trees that are Invasive species, as identified in Schedule A of the by-law
- Remove trees located within a building, solarium, rooftop garden or interior courtyard

Does this by-law include shrubs?

No. The by-law only applies to trees with a 20 cm diameter or greater. Woody shrubs are not included in this by-law.

Will Town staff enter my property without consulting me?

No. Town staff will consult with private property owners to review the draft by-law and seek to ensure private property owners are present and permission is granted before staff enter private property.

Will there be permit fees?

No. The Town will not be collecting fees related to obtaining a permit.

What does this by-law mean for farmers and agricultural property?

Town staff are working with the farming industry to provide special provisions within the draft by-law that will support normal farm practices.



The Corporation of the Town of East Gwillimbury

By-law 202X-XX

Being a By-law to Prohibit or Regulate the Injuring or Destruction of Trees on Private Property in the Town of East Gwillimbury

Whereas section 8(1) of the Municipal Act, 2001, 5.0. 2001, c. 25, as amended (“Municipal Act, 2001”) provides that the powers of a municipality under any act shall be interpreted broadly so as to confer broad authority on a municipality to enable it to govern its affairs as it considers appropriate;

AND WHEREAS section 11(2)5 of the Municipal Act, 2001 provides that a local municipality may adopt by-laws for the economic, social and environmental well-being of the municipality;

AND WHEREAS section 11(3)5 of the Municipal Act, 2001 provides that a local municipality may pass a by-law in the areas of culture, parks, recreation and heritage;

AND WHEREAS without limiting the broad municipal powers, section 135 and sections 139 to 141 of the Municipal Act, 2001 provide municipalities with further authority to regulate and prohibit the destruction or injuring of trees;

AND WHEREAS section 429(1) of the Municipal Act, 2001 provides that a municipality may establish a system of fines for a by-law passed under this Act;

AND WHEREAS section 436 of the Municipal Act, 2001 provides that a municipality may pass by-laws providing that the municipality may enter on land at any reasonable time for the purpose of carrying out an inspection to determine compliance with a by-law or an order made pursuant to the by-law;

AND WHEREAS section 444 of the Municipal Act, 2001 provides that a municipality may make an order to require a Person to discontinue contravening a by-law and to do the work required to correct the contravention;

AND WHEREAS section 445 of the Municipal Act, 2001 provides that a municipality may make an order requiring a Person who contravened a by-law or who caused or permitted the contravention or the owner or occupier of the land on which the contravention occurred to do work to correct the contravention;

AND WHEREAS section 446 of the Municipal Act, 2001 provides that a municipality may proceed to do things at a Person's expense which that Person is otherwise required to do under a by-law but has failed to do and the costs incurred by a municipality may be recovered by adding the costs to the tax roll and collecting them in the same manner as property taxes;

AND WHEREAS Council may also require that a Permit be obtained for the injury or destruction of trees within the Town of East Gwillimbury, and may prescribe the fees for the Permit, then circumstances under which a Permit may be issued, and the conditions to such a Permit;

AND WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the Town of East Gwillimbury recognizes the ecological and aesthetic value of trees and is desirous of managing the Injury and Destruction of Trees.

SECTION 1.0 — DEFINITIONS

In this by-law, the following definitions apply:

“Administrator” means the individual employed by the Town of East Gwillimbury who is responsible for the administration of this by-law;

“Agricultural Operation” means an agricultural, aquacultural, horticultural or silvicultural operation that is carried out with the expectation of gain or reward;

“Applicant” means the person who submits an application to the Town of East Gwillimbury for a tree permit or a distinctive tree permit, as applicable;

“Arborist report” means a report prepared and signed by an arborist, which includes details on the species, size, health, location of a Tree to be Destroyed, Injured or removed, and an assessment of the structural integrity of the subject Tree using the “Tree Risk Assessment, Best Management Practices”, Companion publication to ANSI 300 part 9, standard practices, ISA, as may be amended or replaced;

“Central Growth and Settlement Areas” means the settlement areas that includes the communities of Sharon, Holland Landing and Queensville and Mount Albert as delineated in the Town's Official Plan.

“Dead,” “Dying” or “Diseased Tree” means a tree with no living tissue, a tree where seventy (70) percent or more of its crown is dead or a tree infected by a lethal pathogen, as certified by a Qualified Person;

“Designated Official” means an individual appointed by the Town to consult with residents and businesses and enforce the provisions of this By-Law if required, and includes the Town Arborist or a municipal by-law enforcement officer;

“Destroy” or “Destruction” means to cause directly or indirectly, the removal, ruin, uprooting or death of a Tree whether by accident or by design, and includes the removal, ruin, uprooting or death of a Tree caused by any one or more of the following activities:

- (a) removing, cutting, girdling, or smothering of the Tree or roots;
- (b) interfering with the water supply;
- (c) setting fire to a Tree;
- (d) the application of chemicals on, around, or near the Tree;
- (e) compaction or re-grading within the tree protection zone up to any existing paved surfaces;
- (f) damage caused by new development or construction related activities including driveways;
- (g) storing any materials within a tree protection zone; or
- (h) neglect.

“Diameter or DBH” means the diameter at breast height, measured outside the bark, of the stem or trunk of a Tree, and shall be measured at a point 1.37 meters above the existing grade of the ground adjoining its base or, where there are multiple stems to a Tree, means the total of diameter of all stems at a point 1.37 meters above the existing grade, or alternate methods approved by the Designated Official;

“Emergency Work” means any work required to be carried out immediately in order to prevent imminent danger to life, health or property from natural events (including lightning, wind, hail or an extreme snow event) or unforeseen circumstances (i.e. automobile accidents), and includes work of an urgent nature which can be associated with drain repairs, utility repairs or structural repairs to a building, and work required to prevent soil erosion, slipping of soil or damage to Trees;

“Farm Operator” means the person(s) responsible for the management decisions in operating an agricultural operation. Can be owners, tenants or hired managers of the agricultural operation, including those responsible for management decisions pertinent to particular aspects of the farm – planting, harvesting, raising animals, marketing and sales, and making capital purchases and other financial decisions.

“Good Arboricultural Practice” means the proper implementation of removal, renewal and Maintenance activities known to be appropriate for individual Trees in and around urban areas to minimize detrimental impacts on urban forest values, and includes pruning of Trees to remove dead limbs, maintain structural stability and balance, or to encourage their natural form, provided that such pruning is limited to the appropriate removal of not more than one third of the live branches or limbs of a Tree, but does not include pruning to specifically increase light or space;

“Government Body” means the Town of East Gwillimbury, Regional Municipality of York, a Conservation Authority established under provincial legislation and any Ministry or agent of the Federal or Provincial government;

“Hazard Tree” means a Tree that is severely damaged to the extent that it poses an immediate safety threat to Persons or property;

“Hedgerow” means a row of shrubs or trees enclosing or separating fields;

“Hoarding” means a fence or similar structure used to enclose a portion of a property to protect an existing Tree(s) or other vegetation;

“Injure” or **“Injury”** means to cause, directly or indirectly, whether by accident or design, lasting damage or harm to a Tree, and includes any damage or harm to a Tree caused by one or more of the following activities:

- (a) removing, cutting, girdling, or smothering of the Tree or roots;
- (b) interfering with the water supply;
- (c) setting fire to a Tree;
- (d) the application of chemicals on, around, or near the Tree;
- (e) compaction or re-grading within the tree protection zone up to any existing paved surfaces;
- (f) damage caused by new development or construction related activities including driveways;
- (g) storing any materials within a tree protection zone; or
- (h) neglect.

“Lot” means a parcel of land having specific boundaries which is capable of legal transfer;

“Maintenance” includes all work or operations related to trimming, Pruning, spraying, injecting, fertilizing, treating, cabling and bracing a Tree in accordance with Good Arboricultural Practice;

“Normal Farm Practice” means a practice, as defined in the Farming and Food Production Protection Act, 1998, SO 1998, c. 1, that is conducted in a manner consistent with proper and acceptable customs and standards as established and followed by similar Agricultural Operations under similar circumstances or a practice which makes use of innovative technology in a manner consistent with proper advanced farm management practices;

“Normal Farm Practices Protection Board (NFPPB)” was established by the Farming and Food Production Protection Act, 1998, to resolve disputes regarding agricultural operations and to determine what constitutes a Normal Farm Practice.

“Nursery” means property on which the principal business of selling plants, shrubs, and Trees occurs;

“Order” means an order issued pursuant to this by-law to stop the Injury or Destruction of Tree(s);

“Owner” means the registered Owner of a Lot, and his or her respective successors and assigns, or his or her agent;

“Permit” means a Permit issued under this by-law to Injure or Destroy a Tree on private property within the Town;

“Person” means any individual, public or private corporation, partnership, association, firm, trust, public agency, municipality, or other entity and includes any legal representative(s) acting on behalf of or under the authority of such an entity;

“Private Property” means any property not owned by the Town;

“Pruning” means the removal, as appropriate, of not more than one-third of the live branches or limbs of a tree in accordance with Good Arboricultural Practice;

“Qualified Person” means an individual with qualifications and/or credentials related to a field of study and who is therefore appropriate for conducting a study and/or providing an expert opinion that has been required by the Town. The qualifications and credentials of the Qualified Person must be to the satisfaction of the Town, or where appropriate, may be defined by relevant legislation, regulations and standards;

“Replacement Tree(s)” means a tree(s) that is required under this by-law to replace an existing Tree that is approved for Destruction;

“Replacement Tree Planting Fund” means the fund set aside for the purpose of planting Trees in locations within the Town other than the Lot where a Tree has been Injured or Destroyed;

“Town” means The Corporation of the Town of East Gwillimbury, or where the context requires the geographical jurisdiction of the Town of East Gwillimbury;

“Tree” means any species of woody perennial plant, including its root system, which has reached or can reach a height of at least 4.5 metres at physiological maturity;

“Tree Permit” means the formal written approval from the Administrator to Destroy or Injure Trees, with or without conditions;

“Woodland” means land at least 1 hectare in area and with at least

- (a) 1000 trees, of any size, per hectare;
- (b) 750 trees measuring over five (5) centimetres DBH per hectare;
- (c) 500 trees measuring over twelve (12) centimetres DBH per hectare; or
- (d) 250 trees measuring over twenty (20) centimetres DBH per hectare;

but does not include a nursery, a cultivated fruit or nut orchard, or a plantation established for the purpose of producing Christmas trees or nursery stock;

“Woodlot” means land at least 0.2 hectare in area and no greater than 1 hectare in area, with at least:

- (a) 200 trees of any size, per 0.2 hectare;
- (b) 150 trees, measuring over five (5) centimetres DBH, per 0.2 hectare;
- (c) 100 trees, measuring over twelve (12) centimetres DBH, per 0.2 hectare; or
- (d) 50 trees, measuring over twenty (20) centimetres DBH, per 0.2 hectare; but does not include a cultivated fruit or nut orchard, or a plantation established and maintained for the purpose of producing Christmas trees or nursery stock.

SECTION 2.0 — APPLICATION OF BYLAW

- 2.1 This by-law shall apply to all **Trees** equal to or greater than 20cm **DBH** on **Private Properties** within the geographic limits of the **Town**.
- 2.2 Despite subsection 2.1, the provisions of this by-law do not apply to any **Woodland** with an area of 1.0 ha or greater or to any **Woodlot** with an area of 0.2 ha up to 1.0 ha within the **Town**, in accordance with Regional Municipality of York Forest Conservation Bylaw 2013-68.

SECTION 3.0 — PROHIBITIONS

- 3.1 No **Person** shall **Injure** or **Destroy** a **Tree** or cause the **Injury** or **Destruction** of a **Tree**:
- (a) Unless exempted by Section 4 of this by-law, or
 - (b) Unless in possession of a **Tree Permit** issued under this By-Law and in accordance with its terms and conditions
 - (c) that has been planted as a **Replacement Tree(s)** as per the conditions of a **Tree Permit**, until such time as the **Replacement Tree(s)** reach a size equal to or greater than 20cm **DBH** and a **Tree Permit** for their **Injury** or **Destruction** has been granted.
- 3.2 No **Person** shall:
- (a) Contravene the terms or conditions of a **Tree Permit** issued under this by-Law, or
 - (b) Fail to comply with an **Order** issued under this by-Law.

SECTION 4.0 — EXEMPTIONS, NO PERMIT REQUIRED

4.1 Despite Section 2.1 and 2.2 of this by-law, this by-law does not apply to the following:

- (a) Removal of up to three (3) live, healthy **Trees** that do not individually exceed 30cm **DBH** in a one-year period;
- (b) the **Injury** or **Destruction** of a **Tree(s)** as part of **Emergency Work**;
- (c) the **Pruning** or **Maintenance** of any **Tree(s)** carried out in accordance with **Good Arboricultural Practice**;
- (d) the **Injury** or **Destruction** of, or where specifically noted in the following clauses, the **Maintenance** of any **Tree** that:
 - I. is a **Dead, Dying or Diseased Tree**, as defined in this by-law;
 - II. is a **Hazard Tree**, as defined in this by-law;
 - III. is an invasive species as identified in Schedule A of this By-Law.
 - IV. **Tree(s)** that are causing, or are likely to cause, structural damage of load-bearing walls
or other structures as determined by a **Qualified Person**
 - V. is a **Tree** with a **diameter** of less than 20cm **DBH**;
 - VI. is required under an **Order** under any Property Standards By-law of the **Town**;
 - VII. requires the **Pruning, Maintenance** or removal of branches or limbs, where the branches or limbs interfere with existing utility conductors, buildings or structures, provided such activities shall be carried out in accordance with **Good Arboricultural Practice**;
 - VIII. is a **Tree** in a **nursery** or cultivated orchard, provided that it is a **Tree** devoted to the **nursery** or orchard business and maintained for sale or propagation of **Trees** or fruits for sale;
- (e) the **Tree** is located within a building, a solarium, a rooftop garden or an interior courtyard;
- (f) where an **Owner** is complying with the requirements of an approved Province of Ontario Forest Management Plan that specifically encompasses the **Owner's Lot**.
- (g) as a result of activities or matters undertaken by a Governmental Body or a school board for the construction of a school building or part thereof;

(h) activities or matters are undertaken by a license issued under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994, S.O. 1994, c. 25, as amended;

(i) the **Injury** or **Destruction** of any **Tree** located within a waste disposal site as defined in Part V of the Environmental Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.19, as amended;

(j) **Trees** are **Injured** or **Destroyed** by a **Person** licensed under the Surveyors Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. S.29, to engage in the practice of cadastral surveying, or his or her agent while making a survey;

(k) **Trees** are **Injured** or **Destroyed** by a transmitter or distributor, as those terms are defined in section 2 of the Electricity Act, 1998, S.O. 1998, C. 15, Sched. A, for the purpose of constructing or maintaining a transmission system or distribution system, as defined in the Electricity Act, 1998, as amended;

(l) The **Injury** or **Destruction** of a **Tree(s)** undertaken on land described in a license for a pit or quarry or a permit for a wayside pit or wayside quarry issued under the Aggregate Resources Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. A.8;

(m) The **Injury** or **Destruction** of a **Tree(s)** undertaken on land in order to lawfully establish and operate or enlarge any pit or quarry on land that:

- I. that has not been designated under the Aggregate Resources Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. A.8, or a predecessor of that Act, and
- II. on which a pit or quarry is a permitted land use under a by-law passed under Section 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13;

(n) The **Injury** or **Destruction** of a **Tree(s)** that are protected under the Endangered Species Act, 2007, S.O. 2007, c. 6, for which the landowner has obtained approval from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to remove the **Tree(s)**;

4.2 Exemptions for Normal Farm Practices

The following exemptions apply for **Farm Operator(s)** with a Farm Business Registration Number in relation to the **Injury** or **Destruction of Tree(s)** due to **Normal Farm Practices**:

- (a) The **Injury** or **Destruction** of a **Tree(s)** for **Normal Farm Practice** in an amount not to exceed 5 trees per 50 acres per year.

(b) **Injury or Destruction of Tree(s) for Normal Farm Practice** that exceed the provision in 4.2. (a), must be confirmed by the Town's **Designated Official** and will require a permit if located within the **Central Growth and Settlement Areas**.

(c) Agricultural Operations outside of the **Central Growth and Settlement Areas Injuring or Destroying Tree(s)** in accordance with **Normal Farm Practices** will be exempt from compensation requirements.

SECTION 5.0 — ADMINISTRATION

5.1 The **Administrator** of this by-law is responsible for the administration of this by-law and is hereby delegated the authority to review applications for **Permits**, issue **Permits**, refuse **Permits** and include conditions of **Permits**.

SECTION 6.0 – PERMIT

6.1 Except where otherwise stated in this by-law, an **Owner** who intends either himself, herself or through an authorized representative or agent to **Injure or Destroy a Tree** is required to apply for a **Permit** and shall submit:

- I. a completed **Permit** application to the **Designated Official** in the form provided by the **Town**.

6.2 In circumstances where Agricultural Operations require urgent equipment access to farm property as part of their **Normal Farm Practices**, a permit application is required to be submitted within three business days (Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm) and shall include photographic documentation of each tree removed; this can be completed in concert with the **Designated Official** on-site.

6.3 Permit applications for **Hedgerow** removals in the **Central Growth and Settlement Areas** require an initial visual assessment by the **Designated Official**. An arborist report and compensation may still be required.

6.4 PERMIT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

(a) a report by a **Qualified Person** in support of a **Permit** application may be required by the **Designated Official** as a condition of approval, but is not required as part of the initial **Permit** application;

(b) where the base of the trunk of a **Tree** is shared between property lines, a **Permit** application shall include the written permission of the adjacent property **Owners**;

(c) an **Owner** of lands used for a cemetery, golf course, or similar commercial or institutional use, may file an application for a **Permit** for approval of a tree management plan and in support of a **Permit** application shall submit a tree management plan, prepared by a **Qualified Person**, in accordance with **Good Arboricultural Practice**, which at a minimum shall itemize the existing number, species, location and condition of all **Trees** on the lands and the proposed management schedule related to **Pruning, Maintenance, Destruction** and removal requirements for a period of specified years;

(d) a **Permit** application may be submitted in person, electronically through the **Town's** website or by pre-paid first-class mail to the **Administrator**.

6.5 ISSUANCE OF A PERMIT

The following provisions apply to the issuance of **Permits**:

- (a) Following receipt of a **Permit** application, the **Administrator**, or any **Person** acting under the **Administrator's** instructions, may inspect the lands and **Tree(s)** to determine whether or not a **Permit** should be issued;
- (b) When granting a **Permit**, the **Administrator** may include terms or conditions, including but not limited to a qualified **Arborist Report**, replacement plantings and/or cash in lieu compensation, grading plans, surveys, etc.
- (c) The **Administrator** may issue a **Permit to Injure or Destroy a Tree** where the **Administrator** is satisfied that:
 - I. the application satisfies the requirements of this by-law;
 - II. the application is to permit the establishment or extension of a building or structure which requires the **Tree(s)** to be removed for the proposed works authorized under a municipal building permit and there is no reasonable alternative to the **injury** or **destruction** of the **Tree(s)**;
- (d) The **Administrator** may issue a **Permit** for a tree management plan sought under clause 6.4(c) where the **Administrator** is satisfied that:
 - I. the application satisfies the requirements of this by-law;
 - II. the proposed schedule for the **injury** or **destruction** of **Trees** as set out in the plan represents **Good Arboricultural Practice**;

III. the proposed schedule for the **injury** or **destruction** of **Trees** as set out in the plan does not contravene the general intent of this by-law.

- (e) The **Administrator** may issue a **Permit** subject to conditions which may include but are not limited to any one or more of the following:
- I. the requirement for a **Replacement Tree(s)**,
 - II. satisfactory plans for Tree preservation and planting, and
 - III. **Hoarding** to be provided around a **Tree(s)** not subject to **Injury** or **Destruction**, and plans indicating the location and type of **Hoarding** to the satisfaction of the **Administrator**.
- (f) Where the planting of a **Replacement Tree(s)** has been imposed as a condition of a permit, the **Administrator** may require any one or more of the following:
- I. The **Replacement Tree(s)** rate is based on the **Town's Fees By-Law 2015-078** Schedule L, and the Landscape and Open Space Standards.
 - II. the **Replacement Tree(s)** be located on the same **Lot** in a location, size, and/or species to the satisfaction of the **Administrator**,
 - III. a planting plan be filed to the satisfaction of the **Administrator**;
 - IV. a written undertaking by the **Owner** to carry out the replacement planting;
 - V. monies or a letter of credit in a form satisfactory to the **Administrator** be delivered to the **Administrator** to cover the costs of the **Replacement Tree(s)**, and the **Maintenance** of the **Tree(s)** for a period of up to two (2) years; or
 - VI. payment of each **Replacement Tree** not planted on the **Owner's Lot** be made into the **Town's Replacement Tree** Planting Fund as per the **Town's Fees By-Law 2015-078** Schedule L.
- (g) Where the planting of a **Replacement Tree(s)** has been imposed as a condition of a permit, for the **Injury** or **Destruction of Tree(s)** for **Normal Farm Practices**, the **Administrator** will apply a Farm and Forest special Replacement and Compensation rate for Farmer owned and operated lands within the **Central Growth and Settlement Areas**. The Farm and Forest Special Compensation rate is provided in the Landscape and Open Space Standards and in accordance with the **Town's Fees By-law 2015 – 078** Schedule L.
- (h) A **Permit** shall be valid for a maximum of:
- I. one (1) year from the date of issuance.
 - II. the duration of the approved Tree Management Plan, prepared by a **Qualified Person** as set out in S.6.4 (c).

6.6 REFUSAL OF A PERMIT

6.6.1 The **Administrator** may refuse to issue a **Permit** to remove a **Tree** where any one or more of the following applies:

(a) where the application for a **Permit** is incomplete; or where an **Arborist Report** is required or requested by the **Administrator** or **Designated Official** in support of the **Permit** application and the report has not been provided;

(b) the information received from the **Owner** is false or incorrect;

(c) where an application for rezoning, a consent, a minor variance, a plan of subdivision or a site plan to the land on which the **Tree** is located has been submitted to the **Town** but has not received final approval;

(d) where the **Tree** is an endangered, threatened, or special concern **Tree** species as defined in the provincial Endangered Species Act, 2007, S.O. 2007, c. 6, as may be amended or replaced from time to time;

(e) where the **Tree** belongs to a **Tree** species of special concern, as defined in the Species at Risk Act, 2002, S.C. 2002, c. 29, as may be amended or replaced from time to time;

(f) the **Injury** or **Destruction** of a **Tree(s)** can be avoided, or ought to be avoided, as confirmed by the **Administrator**;

(g) where environmentally sensitive areas, ecological systems, natural landforms or contours will not be adequately protected and preserved;

(h) the **Injury** or **Destruction** of a **Tree(s)** will negatively impact erosion or flood controls; or

6.6.2 If the **Administrator** refuses to issue a **Permit**, he or she shall advise the **Owner** and provide the **Owner** with written reasons for the refusal.

6.7 PERMIT REVOCATION

6.7.1 The **Administrator** may revoke a **Permit** at any time, for one (1) or more of the following reasons:

- (a) the **Permit** was issued because of mistaken, false, or incorrect information received from the **Owner**;
- (b) the **Owner** has failed to comply with any conditions attached to the **Permit**;
- (c) the **Owner** has failed to comply with any **Order** issued under this by-law; or
- (d) the **Owner** has failed to comply with any of the provisions in this by-law.

6.7.2 the **Permit** holder of a revoked **Permit** shall immediately cease or ensure the immediate cessation of all the activities for which a **Permit** has been issued upon revocation of the **Permit**.

6.7.3 where a **Permit** holder of a revoked **Permit** has **Injured** or **Destroyed** any **Tree** under the revoked **Permit**, the **Permit** holder may be ordered to replace the **Tree** at the expense of the **Permit** holder.

6.7.4 If the **Permit** holder fails to comply with an **Order** made under Section 7.1 the **Town** may replace the **Tree** and use any securities posted by the **Permit** holder under the revoked **Permit** to pay for any costs associated with carrying out the work

6.7.5 If the costs incurred by the **Town** in carrying out any work under Section 7.0 are greater than the securities posted by the **Permit** holder under the revoked **Permit**, any costs not covered by the securities shall be a debt owed by the **Permit** holder to the **Town** and the **Town** may recover the costs of carrying out the work by adding the costs to the tax roll of the property in question and collecting them in the same manner as property taxes.

6.7.6 A **Permit** is the property of the **Town** and is not transferable unless otherwise authorized by the **Administrator**.

SECTION 7.0 — ORDERS

7.1 Where the **Designated Official** is satisfied that a contravention of this by-law has occurred, the **Designated Official** may issue an **Order** requiring the **Person** who contravened the by-law, or who caused or permitted the contravention, or the **Owner** or occupier of the land on which the contravention of the by-law occurred, to discontinue the contravening activity;

(a) The **Order** shall set out:

- I. the name of the **Owner**, the municipal address and the legal description of the land or property that is the subject of the contravention;
- II. reasonable particulars of the contravention;
- III. what the **Owner** or any other **Person** must do to rectify the contravention;
- IV. a statement that if the work is not done in compliance with the **Order** within a specified time period, the **Town** may have the work done at the expense of the **Owner** or other **Person**;
- V. the date and time by which the **Order** must be compliance with;
- VI. information regarding the **Town's** contact **Person**.

7.2 The **Order** may require that any **Injured** or **Destroyed Tree** be replaced on the property with a **Replacement Tree**, and further specify the species and location of any **Replacement Tree**.

7.3 Where the **Designated Official** determines that an **Injured** or **Destroyed Tree** cannot be replaced on the property, the **Designated Official** may order that the **Replacement Tree** be located on **Town** property in an area to be determined by the **Designated Official** or that payment in lieu of the **Replacement Tree** be provided to the **Town's Replacement Tree Planting Fund**.

7.4 An **Order** issued under Section 7.1 may be served personally by the **Designated Official**, may be posted in a conspicuous place on the property where the contravention occurred or may be sent by registered mail to the **Person** contravening the by-law.

7.5 Where an **Order** under this by-law is served personally by the **Designated Official**, it shall be deemed to have been served on the date of delivery to the **Person** or **Persons** named.

7.6 The posting of the **Order** on the affected lands shall be deemed to be sufficient service of the **Order** on the **Person** to whom the **Order** is directed on the date it is posted.

7.7 Where an **Order** issued under the by-law is sent by registered mail, it shall be sent to the last known address of:

(a) the **Applicant**;

(b) the **Owner**; or

(c) the **Person** or company retained to undertake the **Injury** or **Destruction** and shall be deemed to have been served on the fifth day after the **Order** is mailed.

7.8 If a **Person** fails to comply with an **Order** issued pursuant to Section 7.1 of this by-law, the **Town** may enter the lands at any reasonable time for the purposes of doing the things described in the **Order** at the **Person's** expense.

7.9 If the **Town** enters on the lands and completes the work, the **Town** may recover its costs to complete the work from the **Person** named in the **Order** by drawing upon the financial security, or by action, or by adding the costs to the tax roll and collecting them in the same manner as property taxes. Costs owing to the **Town** will accrue at a rate of fifteen (15) percent annually and may also be registered as a lien against the property subject to the **Tree Permit**.

SECTION 8.0 — PENALTY

8.1 Any **Person** who contravenes any provision of this by-law or an **Order** issued pursuant to Section 7 of this by-law is guilty of an offence.

8.2 All contraventions of any provision of this by-law or an **Order** issued under Section 7 of this by-law are designated as multiple offences and continuing offences, pursuant to subsection 429(2) of the Municipal Act, a multiple offence is an offence in respect of two or more acts or omissions each of which separately constitutes an offence and is a contravention of the same provision of a by-law and, for greater certainty, when multiple **Trees** are **Injured** or **Destroyed** the **Injury** or **Destruction** of each **Tree** is a separate offence

- 8.3 Any **Person** who contravenes any provision of this by-law or an **Order** is guilty of an offence and is liable:
- (a) on a first conviction, to a fine of not less than \$250 to no more than \$25,000; and
 - (b) on any subsequent conviction, to a fine of not less than \$500.00 to no more than \$50,000.
- 8.4 Any **Person** that is a **Farm Operator** with a Farm Business Registration Number who contravenes any provision of this by-law or an **Order** is guilty of an offence and is liable:
- (a) on a first conviction, to a fine of not less than \$250 to no more than \$25,000; and
 - (b) on any subsequent conviction, to a fine of not less than \$500.00 to no more than \$50,000.
- 8.5 Notwithstanding section 8.3 where the **Person** convicted is a corporation, it is liable:
- (a) on a first conviction, to a fine of not less than \$5,000 to not more than \$50,000; and
 - (b) on any subsequent conviction, to a fine of not less than \$10,000 to not more than \$100,000.
- 8.6 A special fine may be imposed, in addition to a fine under section 8.3 to 8.4, in circumstances where there is an economic advantage or gain from the contravention of this by-law or an **Order** under Section 7 of this by-law, and the maximum amount of the special fine may not exceed \$100,000.
- 8.7 If a **Person** is convicted of an offence for contravening the provisions of this by-law, or an **Order** under Section 7 issued pursuant to this by-law, the Court in which the conviction has been entered may **Order** the **Person** to correct the contravention, which may include but is not limited to:
- (a) Planting **Tree(s)** in such manner and within such time period as the Court considers appropriate, such as replacement of a comparable species and/or payment of the **Tree(s)** amenity value as determined by the **Designated Official**.

SECTION 9 — APPEALS

9.1 Appeals to permit decisions and/or conditions of a permit will be provided for through the Town’s administrative process.

9.2 In exceptional circumstances where there is a disagreement between the landowner and the Town, as to what constitutes a **Normal Farm Practice**, either party may initiate a review by the **Normal Farm Practices Protection Board (NFPPB)** for mediation on the matter. The decision of the **NFPPB** is final and binding.

SECTION 10 — ACCESS TO PRIVATE PROPERTY

10.1 The **Designated Official** shall only enter private property with the property owner or their designate present and/or their permission to enter the property.

SECTION 11 — SEVERABILITY

11.1 If a court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction declares any provision, provisions, or part of a provision of this by-law to be illegal or unenforceable for any reason, such provision, provisions or part of a provision shall be severed, and all other provisions of this by-law shall be deemed to be separate and independent therefrom and shall be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

SECTION 12 — IN FORCE

12.1 This by-law shall come into force and take effect on the date it is passed.

ENACTED and PASSED this ___ day of ___, 2024.

Virginia Hackson, Mayor

Tara Lajevardi, Municipal Clerk

Schedule A – Invasive Species

Invasive Species as per the Ontario Invasive Plant Council:

www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca

- Autumn Olive
- Black Locust
- Buckthorn
- European Black Alder
- Invasive Honeysuckles
- Manitoba Maple
- Norway Maple
- Scots Pine
- White Mulberry

Farm and Forest Special Replacement and Compensation Rate and Update to the Town Tree Replacement and Compensation Value

Tree Replacement and Compensation Standards

Tree Replacement and/or Compensation shall always be applied to the registered property owner.

The Replacement and Compensation standard for Tree(s) is in accordance with the Town's Fees By-Law 2015 – 078 and the Landscape and Open Space Guidelines (formerly known as Park Design Standards).

Update to Fees and Charges By-Law 2015 – 078 Schedule L

Tree Replacement or Compensation value shall be provided in accordance with the Town's Fees By-law 2015 – 078 Schedule L and will be based on the cost for a 60mm DBH (diameter at breast height) tree, currently valued at \$565.00 plus applicable taxes (subject to change.)

Farm and Forest Special Replacement and Compensation Rate

The Farm and Forest Special Compensation Rate for Normal Farm Practice applies within the Central Growth and Settlement Area.

Farm Owner/Operator must own the property within the Central Growth and Settlement Areas.

The Farm Owner/Operator must have a Registered Farm Business Number

For removals within the Central Growth and Settlement Areas beyond any exemptions listed within the Tree Protection By-law, a tree compensation ratio of 1:1, one tree planted for one tree removed, shall be applied. The compensation standard is based on a 60mm DBH replacement tree.

The following compensation methods may apply:

- An option to plant multiple trees of various stock sizes to meet the 1:1 replacement value.
- An option to plant at an alternate site owned by the Farm Owner/Operator within the geographic limits of the Town, either in all or in part, to meet the 1:1 replacement rate.
- The Farm Owner/Operator shall seek to plant replacement trees on their property. Where planting is not feasible on the Farmer Owned and Operated property then an option to provide cash-in-lieu to meet the 1:1 replacement standard, to plant on Town property shall be provided, subject to Town approval.