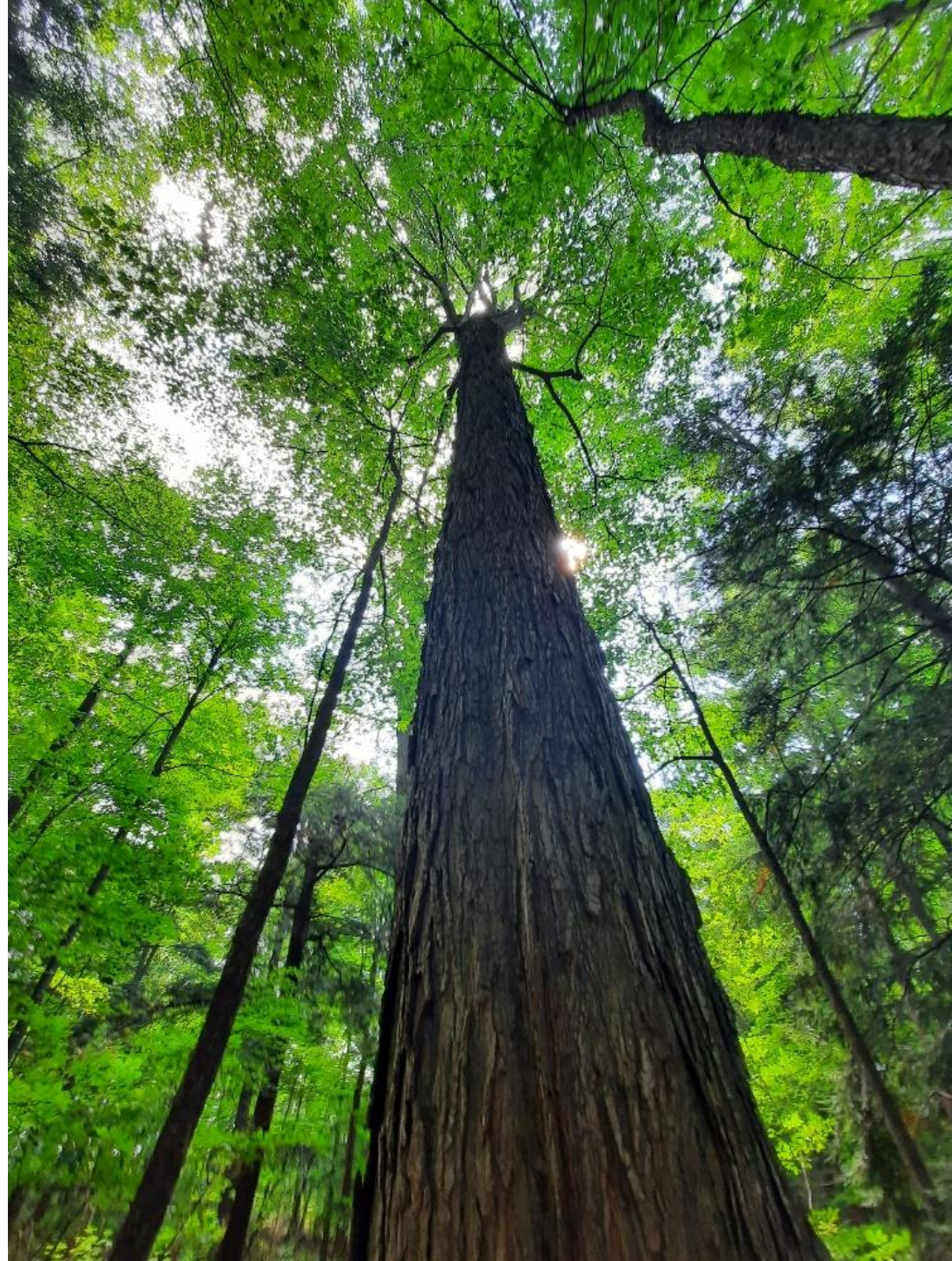




# Tree Preservation Workshop

October 13, 2021



## Workshop Focus Areas

### **Tree Preservation - New Development & Redevelopment (Primarily Development Industry)**

Authorities having jurisdiction

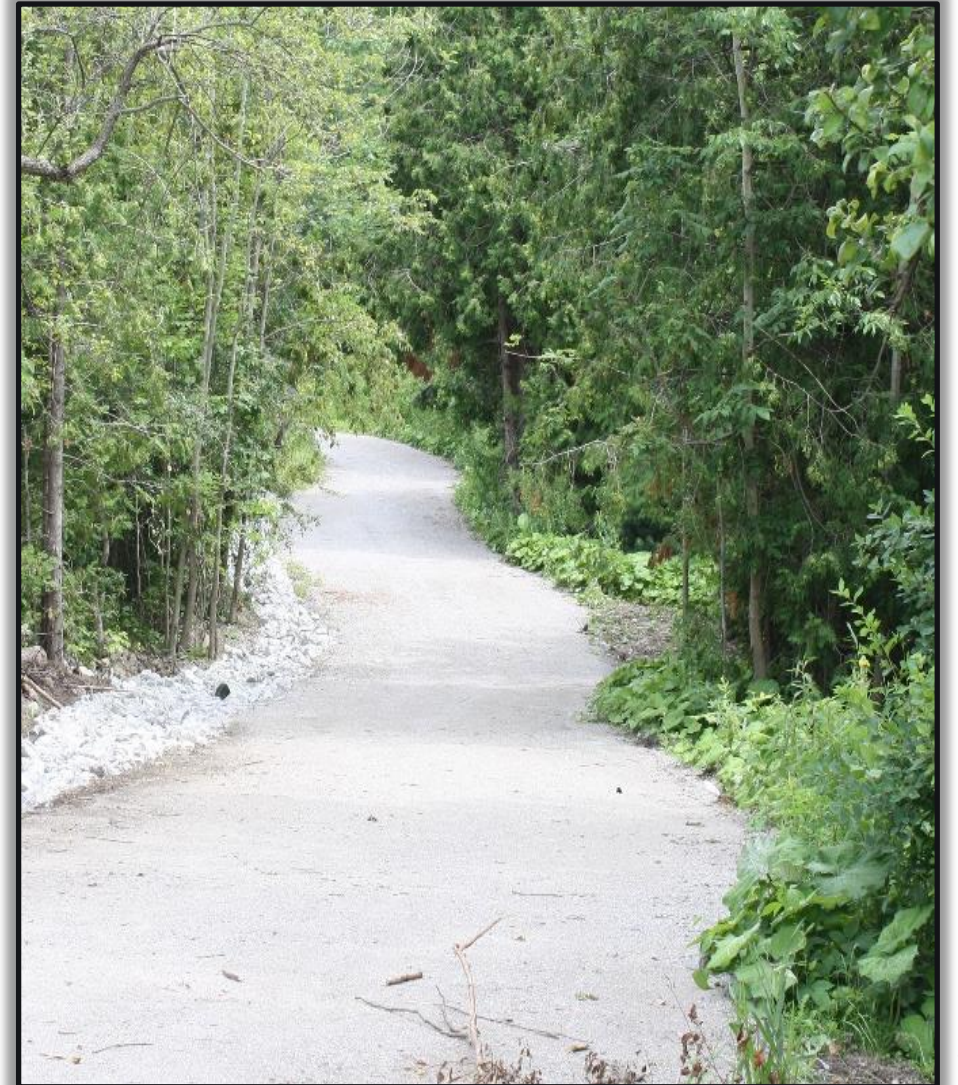
- Provincial, Regional and Conservation Authorities
- Town Development Standards

### **Property Standards and Tree Assessments**

- Challenges with current By-law
- Recommended Option for Assessments

### **Private Property Tree Preservation By-Law**

- Existing Environment
- Municipal Comparators
- Options and Requirements



## Tree Preservation - New Development and Redevelopment (Primarily Development Industry)

### Authorities Having Jurisdiction

#### Provincial Legislation

- Endangered Species Act - Protection of endangered species (Butternut)
- Oak Ridges Moraine (ORM) Policy – Protection of lands within the ORM

#### York Region By-law

- Forest Conservation Bylaw - BILL NO.70,BYLAW NO.2013-68

#### Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

- Disturbance within Regulation Limit requires a permit
- Submission of documents required for a permit:
  - Natural Heritage Studies, Environmental Assessment, Trail Impact Studies, Edge Management Plans, Arborist Reports and compensation planting plans
- Ecological Offsetting – Includes planting and monetary compensation



## Tree Preservation - New Development and Redevelopment

### Town Development Standards

#### Town of East Gwillimbury

- Submission of documents required for all development:
  - Natural Heritage Studies, Environmental Assessment, Trail Impact Studies, Edge Management Plans, Arborist Reports and compensation planting calculations (Ratio Replacement)
  - Documents are fully reviewed by staff including comments provided by Government Agencies

- Current Replacement Method

| Size of Tree (DBH – Diameter at Breast Height) | Compensation Ratio |
|--|--------------------|
| 10 – 20 cm DBH                                 | 1:1                |
| 20 cm DBH or Greater                           | 2:1                |

- Park Development Standards States:
  - *Tree preservation requirements will be addressed in accordance with the approved Tree Preservation Plans and related documents as submitted for the subdivision (Section 2)*

## Tree Preservation - New Development and Redevelopment

### Town Development Standards

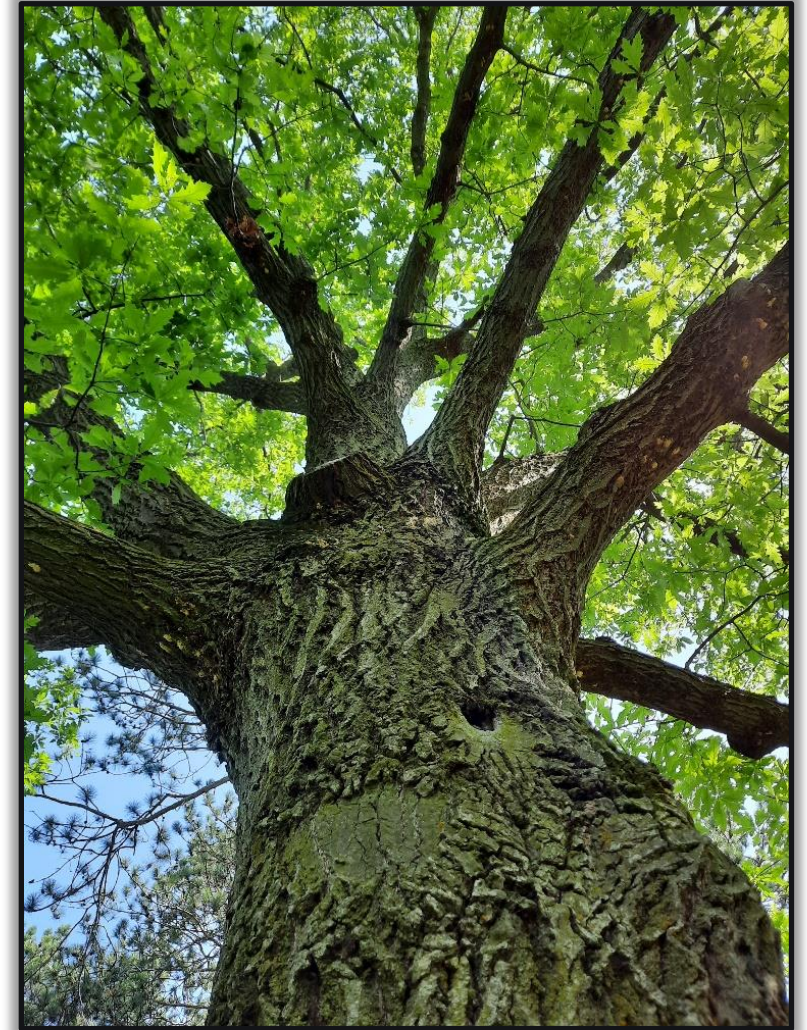
- Implementation of Aggregate Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) Replacement with an option of Cash-in-Lieu for future planting

#### Example – Queensville Developments (Phase 4)

- Total Tree Removals – 5264cm DBH (213 Trees)
- 1 new Tree = 6cm DBH (60mm)

| Total Removed DBH (cm) | Replacement Size (cm) | Compensation (Qty) |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 5264                   | 6                     | 877                |

- Tree planting replacements first priority, monetary cash-in-lieu will be considered if planting locations are limited



## Property Standards and Tree Assessments

### Challenges With Current By-law

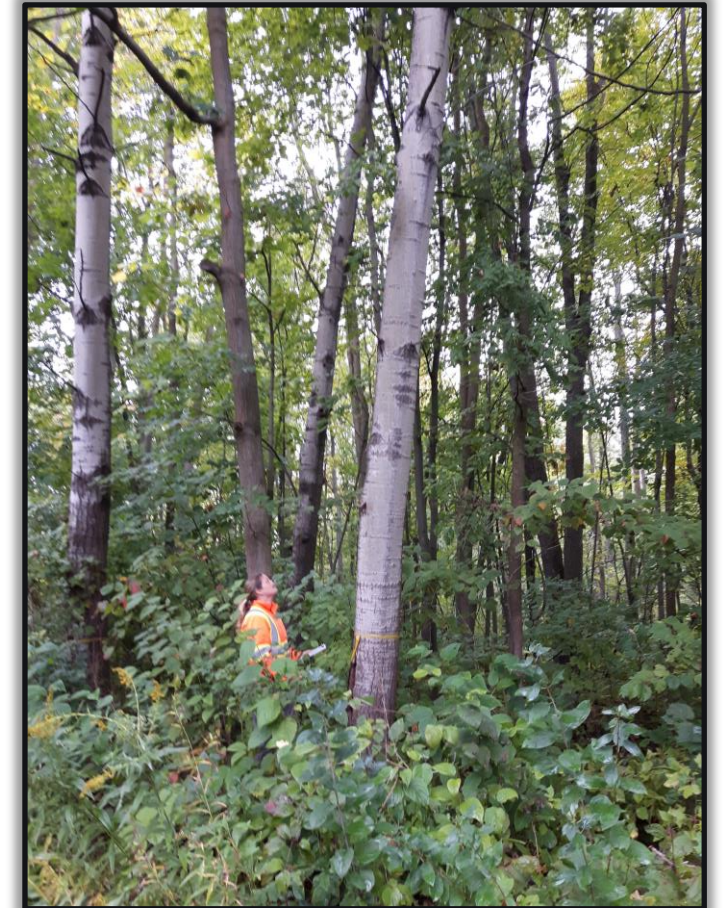
- **BY-LAW NUMBER 2018-083 - PROPERTY STANDARDS**
- Inserts Town into private property matters
- Town assumes risk when the assessment is provided by the Town or Town Staff (Corporate and Professional Risk)
- Town has limited resources to perform tree risk assessments
  - Assessments cost Town staff time. Inspections are often required with no advanced notice requiring a re-assignment of staff duties
  - Proper tree risk assessments An average assessment takes over 1 hour of staff time



## Property Standards and Tree Assessments

### Option for Assessments

- Property assessments should be provided by a third-party Certified Arborist with the following credentials:
  - Member of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)
  - Must hold a Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ)
- Property Owner responsibility to provide a certified Tree Risk Assessment report at a cost to the property owner
- Town does not assume risk or liability
- Qualified Arborists can be found through ISA. <https://www.isa-arbor.com/>
- Currently, larger municipalities with dedicated Arborist staff (Markham, Vaughan and Richmond Hill) provide assessments on private property
- Average cost of a dedicated Certified Arborist is approximately \$100K (Salary and benefits) per staff member

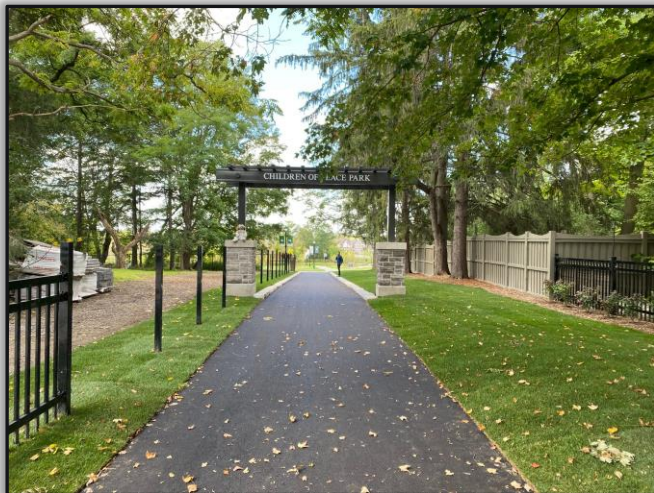


## Private Property Tree By-law

Existing Environment

York Region Canopy and Woodland Cover Study

- Completed in 2016 and 2020 (5 yrs.)
- *Intended to help plan and manage forests effectively. The forest studies are a monitoring project that informs adaptive management practices and tracks progress toward shared objectives.*



## EAST GWILLIBURY – CANOPY & WOODLAND COVER CHANGE REASONS

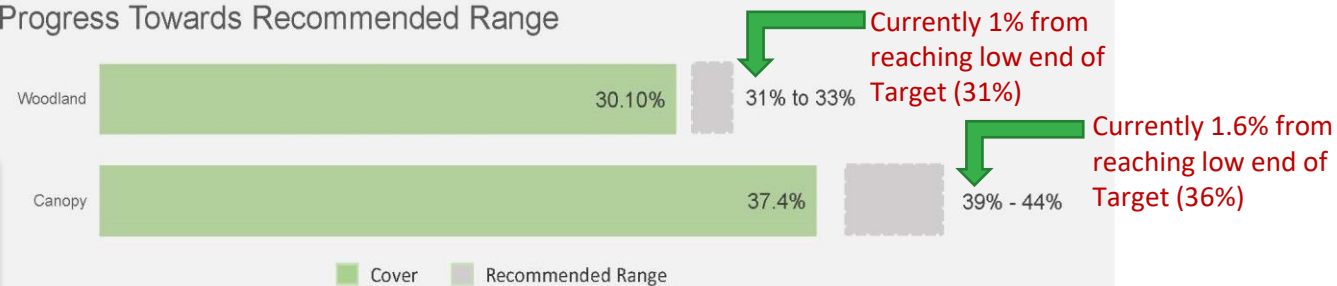
Tree canopy change is inconclusive.

Losses and gains exist throughout the area. Change is inconclusive due to different methods in 2016 and 2020.

Woodland cover is increasing.

Loss (81 ha) stems mostly from removals and development. 97 ha gained, mostly from natural succession.

Progress Towards Recommended Range

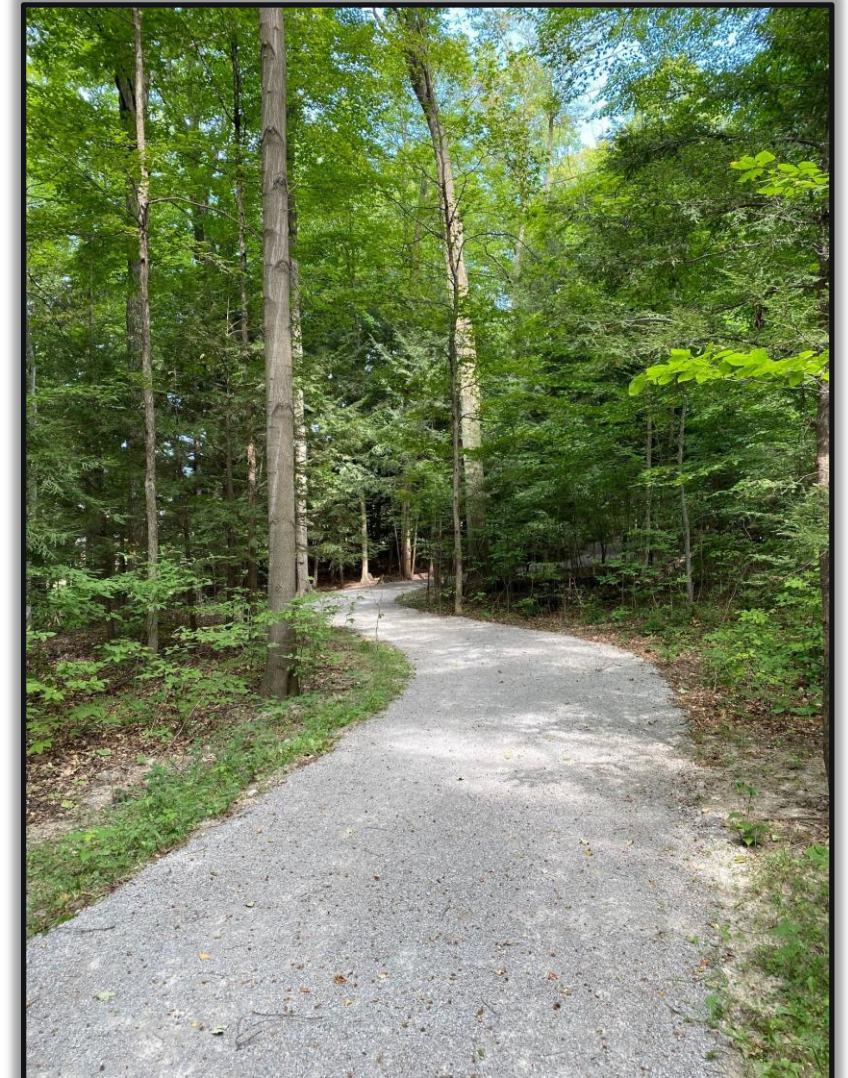




## Private Property Tree By-law

### Municipal Comparators

| Municipality                | Private Property Tree By-law |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| East Gwillimbury            | No                           |
| Georgina                    | No                           |
| Newmarket (Draft in Review) | No                           |
| King                        | No                           |
| Stouffville                 | No                           |
| Aurora                      | Yes                          |
| Markham                     | Yes                          |
| Richmond Hill               | Yes                          |
| Vaughan                     | Yes                          |



## Private Property Tree By-law

### Protection Measures

- Coordination of comments from various Government agencies with Town for development applications
  - Protection of the Oak Ridges Moraine through the ORM Provincial Policy will ensure East Gwillimbury remains 70% green space with tree canopy cover
  - Supporting the policies and by-laws of LSRCA and York Region to preserve environmental lands, natural heritage systems, woodlots, greenspace and agricultural lands.
- Maintaining and improving on York Region tree canopy targets identified in 2020 Study
- Report private tree removals to York Region and LSRCA and assist with enforcement



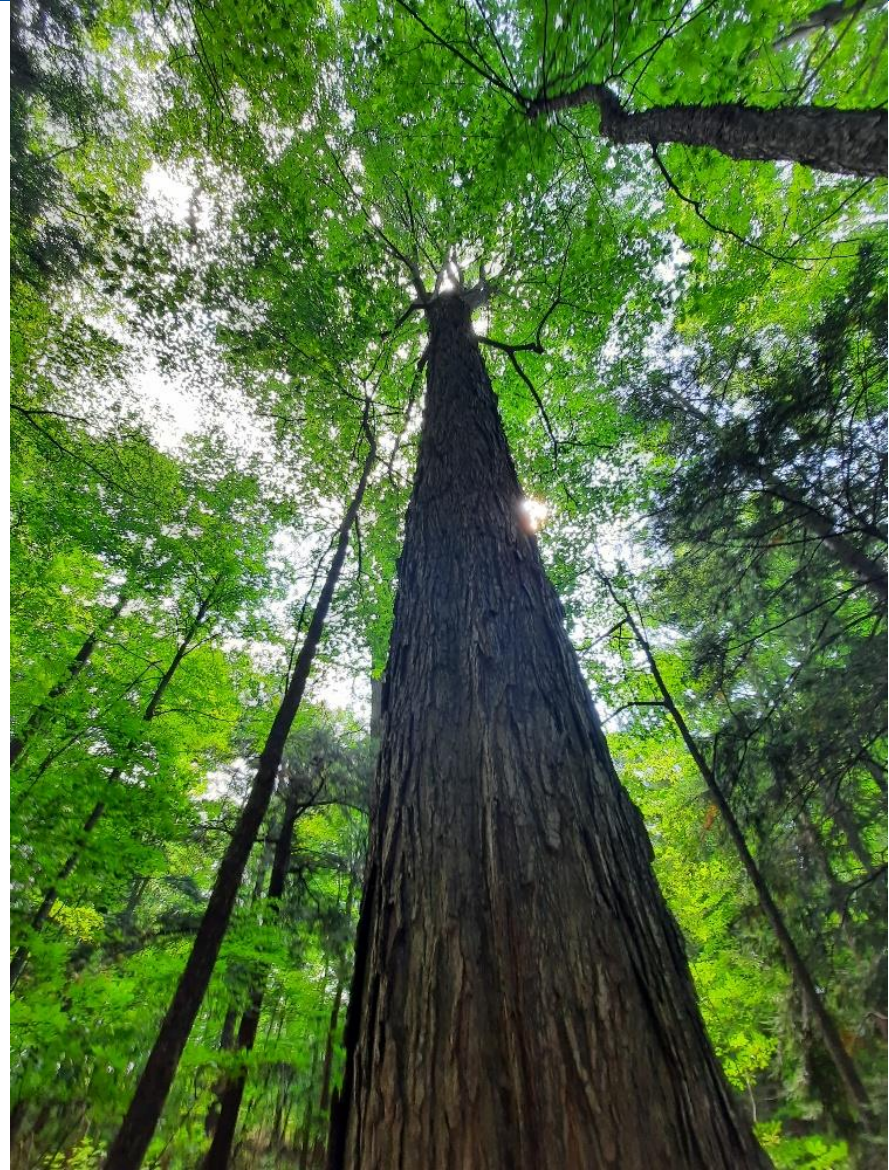
## Private Property Tree By-law

### Potential By-Law

- CPRC reviewed By-laws from across Ontario and the Region. Some By-law provisions include:
- Limit to # of trees that can be cut on private property based on property size.
- All authorities having jurisdiction still apply (York Region Forestry, LSRCA, MNR)
- Limit to size of tree being removed (DBH)

### Context and Challenges with Implementation

- Inserting the Town into private property matters
- Limited reports over a 10 year period in community village cores
- Limited canopy within intensified areas
- Cost to administer permit and monitor removals by qualified arborist staff





Questions? and Comments