

# Proposed Tree Preservation By-laws

Restricting the destruction of trees in Kawartha Lakes

November 7, 2023



# Currently

- The City of Kawartha Lakes does not regulate or restrict the destruction of trees on privately-owned property
- The destruction of trees on City-owned property is allowed with City permission
- Migratory Birds Act, Conservation Authorities Act and Endangered Species Act restricts the destruction of trees
  - Crown Forest Sustainability Act regulates forestry

# By-law 1: Regulate Tree Cutting on Privately-owned Property by Property Owners

- Permit required to cut down mature trees only:
  - Within 30 metres of shorelines or
  - On any property greater than 0.5 hectares in size
- Exemption for: farming, cemeteries, tree nurseries, orchards, aggregates, golf courses, forestry
  - Septic installation/ repair within shorelines
  - Personal use in residential heating
  - Removal of invasive species
  - Hazard trees

# By-law 1: Regulate Tree Cutting on Privately-owned Property by Property Owners

- Pay \$425/\$1,700 for each healthy mature tree removed within 30 metres of shorelines
  - Offsetting by tree replacement reduces fees
  - Amount of fee depends on the size of the property
  - Fee waiver for low income households and affordable housing development
- No removal of healthy mature trees in environmental protection areas
- Development process impacted

## Tree removal on existing lot of record

- Currently, no cost to remove mature healthy trees in to put in a building, garage, clear land for a yard or a driveway.
  - Proposed for shoreline and environmental protection areas: \$425 (for properties  $\leq 0.5$  ha) / \$1,700 (properties  $> 0.5$  ha), per healthy mature tree removed, no application cost
  - Proposed for removal on land  $> 0.5$  hectares: \$1,700 per healthy tree removed, no application cost
- Costs reduced \$425/ mature sapling planted in replacement, up to total otherwise paid

## Tree removal for development/ lot creation (i.e. subdivision, plan of condo)

- Currently, requirement to plant one mature sapling per lot created in a subdivision
  - Proposed: \$1,700 per healthy mature tree removed, no application cost
  - No change to current planting requirements

## Process Considerations

Where existing City process exists, tree removal permit will be incorporated into that process.

- Application to Planning Department for site plan, consent to sever, draft plan approval for subdivision, plan of condominium
- Subdivision Pre-servicing Agreement, administered by Engineering Department

Otherwise, application for a tree permit is to [treebylaw@kawarthalakes.ca](mailto:treebylaw@kawarthalakes.ca)

- Building permit
- No building permit (i.e. clear land for driveway/ yard)
- Conservation Authority Permit concurrent

## **By-law 2: Regulate the Cutting of City-owned Trees by Members of the Public (non-municipal activities)**

- Permit required to cut down trees (mature and immature)
- No cutting trees on shorelines or common area space water access blocks
- Utilities and telecommunications exempt
- Entrance Permits exempt



# Next Steps

Consultation with First Nations

Input from City's Advisory Committees (Environmental and Agricultural)

Public Engagement via Jump In

Return to Council July 2024 to potentially pass by-laws / pass amended by-laws

## For Further Review

- Jump In page on the City's Website
- Report LGL2023-012

# Questions?