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April 3, 2006

SCHEDULE D TO THE MINUTES OF
THE GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE MEETING OF MONDAY,
APRIL 3, 2006.

Your Worship and members of the Richmond City Council

Re: RICHMOND TREE PROTECTION BYLAW

Included herewith is the copy of a document which I gave to the Manager, Building Approvals, Mr. John IRVING, on March 22, 2006.

Your proposed Tree Protection Bylaw No8057 is an improvement over the Tree Protection Bylaw No8014 and, on that basis, I welcome it. However, you have to go to page 7 of the bylaw under PART 4.2. b) (x) C to find out that the tree bylaw is also referring to a "dead tree".

A dead tree should not be part of this bylaw.

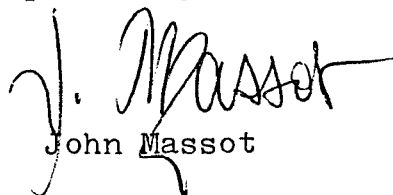
With a good definition of a dead tree, there is no need for a tree bylaw to apply to a dead tree. This is an area where the City of Richmond could save many thousand of dollars to both, trees owners and taxpayers.

I therefore proposed that the following be added under section "PART ONE: APPLICATION":

- "1.3 This bylaw does not apply to a dead tree. A dead tree is defined as follow:
- a) Deciduous tree
A tree which has failed to produce any new leaves during its previous growing season and where twigs have become brittle and completely desicated.
 - b) Evergreen tree:
A tree which has failed to produce new growth during its previous growing season and where needles or foliage have fallen off and where twigs have become brittle and completely desicated.

I wish that responsible home owners who take good care of their trees could be left out of this restrictive and somewhat punishing bylaw.

Respectfully submitted,


John Massot

One enclosure

March 22, 2006

Re: RICHMOND TREE PROTECTION BYLAW

GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

- To protect existing significant mature trees
- To work toward the creation of an "URBAN FOREST"
- Promote the planting of more trees on public and private properties

PROBLEMS AND FINDINGS OF FACTS:

- Home builders and developers removing mature healthy trees unnecessarily prior to development
- Increasing numbers of mega houses with paved front yards (and sometimes side yards as well) serving as parking lots and no tree(s).
- Private single-family home owners have never been guilty in 99.09% of cases of removing a healthy tree for no serious reason. A costly tree protection bylaw to deal with the 0.01% of potential guilty offenders is unreasonable and unnecessary.
- The irony of the situation in Richmond, bordering on hypocrisy, is that the present developments taking place on the south-east corner of Garden City & Westminster Highway have already removed more mature healthy trees, in a matter of months, than the total of all private home owners would ever remove in 50 years. In a larger scale this will be repeated again -with tree cutting permits- in the presently proposed development of the West Cambie area.

SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS:

- Implement a tree protection bylaw directed toward:
 - 1) Home builders, developers and public property (Take the Burnaby tree bylaw as an exemple)
 - 2) The protection of the City of Richmond's approved landscape plan(s) of all commercial, industrial and residential developments.
 - 3) Find ways to stop the proliferation of mega houses with no trees and fully paved front yard serving as parking lot.
 - 4) Promote and encourage the planting of more trees.
 - 5) Leave the private home owner out of the costly constraint of a tree bylaw, except in the case of heritage trees.

WHAT OTHER MUNICIPALITIES ARE DOING IN RELATION TO PRIVATE HOME OWNER PROPERTIES:

- New-Westminster - The City of North Vancouver and West Vancouver have no tree bylaw directed at private home owner properties.

(over)