

Tree bylaw comments:

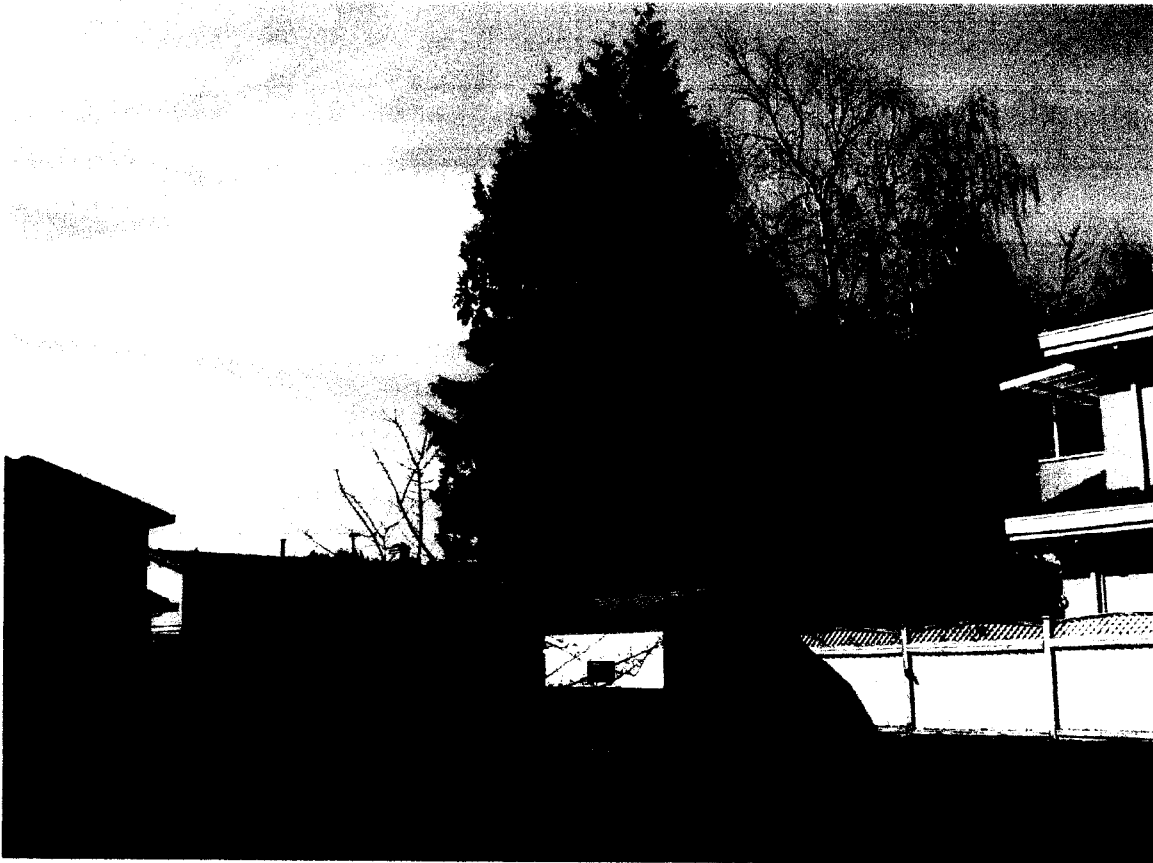
SCHEDULE E TO THE MINUTES OF
THE GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE MEETING OF MONDAY,
APRIL 3, 2006.

Hedges

Staff recommendation that hedges not be exempted from this bylaw makes it more likely that problem hedges will remain as problems for neighbours. That is, the significant trees that make a hedge a problem will be more difficult to eliminate because the hedge owner will have to go through a permit application to remove the significant tree. Even if the owner wants to remove the tree to help out his/her neighbour, the hassle of the permit application will be one more reason not to remove or top the tree, and the problem will continue.

If the vast majority of hedge trees are smaller than 20cm dbh, then why is the city concerned if a few hedges with large trees are topped or cut.

An example of such a hedge is pictured below:



The shadow cast by this hedge shows how it can be a problem for our garden:



If my neighbour considers topping his/her hedge the permit application will be one big reason to dissuade him/her from doing so, and the problem for our yard will remain. This is one example of how irresponsible planting of large trees affects neighbours.

For the above reasons, I disagree with the recommendation that hedges not be exempt.

Fruit and Ornamental Trees

The following apple tree grows in our back yard:



The existing and proposed bylaws prevent me from removing this tree without a permit. Moreover, if I wanted to replace it with another apple tree I would not be able to purchase one 2.5" in diameter dbh, at a local garden shop. Fruit trees have a cycle, and after awhile should be replaced. Why does the city want to burden itself with what is done with this fruit tree?

Similarly, there is a Magnolia tree/bush growing in our front yard, as shown below.



If I wanted to remove this plant to change the appearance of our front yard, I would need to apply for a permit. Again, why does the city want to burden itself with what we may do with our front yard?

I think the city's involvement in what is done with the above two trees to be a colossal waste of city staff time and expense, and disagree that fruit and ornamental trees should not be exempt from the proposed bylaw.