

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October 27, 2021 9:18 AM
To: Sharman, Paul <Paul.Sharman@burlington.ca>
Subject: Private Tree Bylaw

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Sharman

I have a few comments with respect to the Private Tree Bylaw and the current review of the Bylaw.

I am in agreement with the intent of Burlington's tree protection and enhancement philosophy; however, Burlington's current bylaw does not provide the protection and enhancement intended and it also violates individual Right-of-Ownership.

The bylaw does not provide the protection and enhancement intended because it is focused on the sector of the community that has the least impact (positive or negative) on the health of Burlington's tree canopy. An individual subdivision lot owner will have an insignificant impact on the tree canopy should he cut a tree or two on his lot. Subdivision lot owners will never clear cut an entire subdivision so the need to control subdivision lot owners does not exist.

In addition to that, the bylaw exempts the sectors of the community that can have the greatest impact on Burlington's tree canopy. Large land owners such as developers and rural land owners are exempt from the bylaw. If they clear cut their property the impact on the tree canopy will be significant.

With respect to individual rights of ownership, the bylaw trespasses on and expropriates the rights of Burlington subdivision home owners to develop and enjoy their property.

I am a gardener. I purchased and planted every tree on my lot. They are part of my gardens and as my gardens evolve, I will modify and change the plants in my gardens, including the trees. I am not about to let the municipality, however well intentioned, to dictate how I enjoy my gardens.

I recognize the difficulty associated with controlling the development of large land holdings; however, Burlington should not take the easy way out to look GREEN by implementing draconian bylaws aimed at individual subdivision land owners who are least able to defend themselves against this dictatorial bylaw.

Reg Copeland