

Subject: [Fwd: Re: Illegal tree removal on Mt Royal Blvd.]

Date: Wed, 14 Apr 2004 14:19:52 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Re: Illegal tree removal on Mt Royal Blvd.

Date: Wed, 14 Apr 2004 18:25:35 +0100 (BST)

From: Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

To: Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>, Richard Zerr <Richard_Zerr@dnv.org>

CC: James Ridge <James_Ridge@dnv.org>, Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@dnv.org>, "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, cagebc@yahoo.com, Senior Management Committee <managecomm@dnv.org>

14 April 2004

Dear Clr. Crist:

The problem is, of course, that once the trees are gone, they're gone.

If the situation is as you describe, I am of the opinion that the only way to stop this type of event is to hit individuals and companies found guilty of the infractions where it hurts the most - the pocketbook. What these individuals seem not to realize that it is not just their neighbours who have enjoyed the trees, it is everyone else who walks and drives Montroyal.

Those of us who prefer the beauty of a natural environment, gravitated to the North Shore *because* of the trees and the mountains. All these years later, that environment is losing out to the neo-wonder versions of Lower Mainland "award-winning" architecture.

There is news of more potential high-rise development at the foot of Lonsdale, around Lions Gate hospital and on Bosa's Lynn Valley holdings. Today, we hear of the development value of Catholic Church properties around St. Paul's and other Vancouver hospitals....."to rival that of the Wall property across the street."

It is becoming more and more obvious that the driving force of today's society is the dollar - not any sense of community - so much for 'the dream' you were asked to put into words.

And so it is that it appears the only way of exerting any kind of control over individual and collective behaviour, is by way of applying the same principle - the dollar bill. In this, and any other such case, the District *must* set an example - a legal example. Council must make it 'unprofitable' to take down trees without going through the appropriate processes, weak though they may be.

Therefore, I suggest (a) a fine for the action to be levied on anyone involved in the decision; plus (b) a punitive - dollar - action on the company through the courts; (c) suspension of the company's business licence for the remainder of the season; and (d) a requirement that the person or persons who instructed the company and paid for the tree-cutting reimburse the District for costs of replacement. The age and size of replacement trees should mirror that of the trees which were cut down. Maybe, just maybe, citizens would then realize it 'just ain't worth it.'

The question now becomes: Does Council have the fortitude and will to make the necessary moves?

Sincerely,

Liz James

[604] 988-2066

Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org> wrote:

Mr. Zerr :

We have now been made aware of a rather substantial and illegal tree removal on Mount Royal Blvd. A copy to that effect by the residents has been received by Mayor and Council. In this letter (enclosed) we have been given the details including the name of the company which has removed these trees illegally including those on District land. This letter from the residents has been forwarded to the North Shore News and if published may cause some embarrassment to the District. The residents have told me that correspondence made available to the District including a copy of the letter to the NEWS and several phone calls to the District have not been responded to by staff.

The issue is the more ironic since when I made a motion that tree cutting on private properties should be left in the hands of and be left to the judgment of the owners of such property, the motion was defeated. I am also aware that you personally were in favor of the motion to leave such matters in the hands of the owners. However, here we have a blatant violation of tree removal not only on private properties but also on District properties with the result that the area has been substantially uglified and denuded obviously at the order of one or more individuals.

However, we do know the name of the tree company which did the cutting and which misled the adjacent residents by providing false and misleading information. It should therefore be no big problem to prosecute and fine this company for this illegal action. I visited that place and was appalled by the result.

I look forward to a reply from you and would appreciate if you let me know what action your department or the District will take regarding this serious matter.

I should mention that in following up this matter myself but without being able to get a hold of any of your staff in the Municipal Hall YESTERDAY, I DID PASS A COPY OF THE LETTER FROM THE RESIDENTS ON TO ONE OF YOUR STAFF IN CHARGE OF TREES WHO HAD HOWEVER NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY OF THE ABOVE.
Thank you.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist.

[Yahoo! Messenger](#) - Communicate instantly..."Ping" your friends today! [Download Messenger Now](#)