



August 26, 2020

Dear Committee of Adjustment Members,

We are writing to express our grave concern for the future of a heritage tree that is threatened by the redevelopment of a residential property at 18 Herne Hill in Etobicoke. The tree is a white oak (*Quercus alba*) (Heritage Tree Number HT-2015-105-111), at least 250 years old. As such, it represents one of the few precious remnants of the forest that existed prior to European settlement in Etobicoke.

We strongly urge the City to protect this rare tree for its ecological and heritage value, and its contribution to neighbourhood tree cover. Due to their often large size, heritage trees provide many ecosystem services and benefits to the community that are disproportionately larger than smaller trees, including improved human health and well-being. Furthermore, heritage trees represent ties to history and an ecological continuity that cannot be replaced by planting new trees in their place.

Heritage tree protection is a testament to a city's stewardship of its valuable environmental resources. The City of Toronto's tree bylaw recognizes the protection of designated heritage trees, such as this white oak, from injury or removal. We strongly encourage the City to fulfill its duty to protect this valuable heritage tree and preserve it for the benefit of future generations, especially in an era where cities are facing the impacts of climate change.

Sincerely,

Ontario Urban Forest Council Board of Directors