



Talbot Mackenzie & Associates

Consulting Arborists

October 11, 2012

City of Victoria
#1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

Attention: Brooke Daitl

Re: Harbour Road at Esquimalt Road City of Victoria

During our October 10, 2012 site visit, at your request, we inspected, a domestic apple tree located on municipal property near the north east corner of the intersection of Harbour Road and Esquimalt Road, viewed the surrounding site conditions and reviewed the feasibility of moving and relocating this specimen. The tree is located where there will be a significant and steep grade change between the existing site grade and the future grade required for the sidewalk and bridge access. As such, it will not be possible to retain this tree in its existing location.

Furthermore, the tree grows in poor soil conditions and in an area that has been disturbed historically. There is a deep excavation within 3 metres of the trunk on its south side, and there appears to have been a recent excavation approximately 1 metre from the trunk on its west side, although this excavation has since been backfilled to the original site grade. There is some evidence of health stress in the upper canopy and defects are present within its structure.

It appears that the tree may have been cut to the ground historically and has regenerated from the stump or it grew as a multiple-stemmed tree. This growth habit has resulted in the development of stems that have narrow angles of attachment and weakness and bark included at several of these stem unions. It also appears that the tree has been allowed to grow for many years with little or no pruning resulting in a poorly structured tree that has crossing limbs, long heavily end-weighted limbs and stems that are rubbing where they contact each other. Broken scaffold limbs on the ground beneath the canopy indicate recent limb failure.

In our opinion, this is not an ideal specimen to contemplate relocating to a new location. It is a labour intensive and a costly project to attempt to transplant a tree of this size and structure, and there is a low probability that it would survive unless you have three to four years lead time to properly prepare and reduce the size of the root structures, prior to moving the tree.

If it is the variety of fruit that you are trying to preserve, we recommend taking scion cuttings from the limbs during January of 2013 that can be grafted onto purchased root stock and can be grown on in a nursery setting. A newly propagated tree could be planted back onto this site or in an alternate location once it has grown to a suitable size.

Please do not hesitate to call us at 250-479-8733 should you have any further questions.
Thank you.

Yours truly,

Tom Talbot & Graham Mackenzie
ISA Certified, & Consulting Arborists

Disclosure Statement

Arborists are professionals who examine trees and use their training, knowledge and experience to recommend techniques and procedures that will improve the health and structure of individual trees or group of trees, or to mitigate associated risks.

Trees are living organisms, whose health and structure change, and are influenced by age, continued growth, climate, weather conditions, and insect and disease pathogens. Indicators of structural weakness and disease are often hidden within the tree structure or beneath the ground. It is not possible for an arborist to identify every flaw or condition that could result in failure nor can he/she guarantee that the tree will remain healthy and free of risk.

Remedial care and mitigation measures recommended are based on the visible and detectable indicators present at the time of the examination and cannot be guaranteed to alleviate all symptoms or to mitigate all risk posed.