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URBAN FORESTRY & FOREST MANAGEMENT CONSULTING

August 4, 2020

Rosaline Hill, *BArch, BES, OAA, MRAIC*
Rosaline J. Hill Architect Inc.
414 Churchill Ave. North
Ottawa, ON
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RE. CEDAR HEDGE ADJACENT TO 3368 CARLING AVE.

Rosaline,

As per your request, this brief report details a condition assessment of the cedar hedge located south of the subject property at 3368 Carling Avenue.

The first assessment of this white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) hedge was performed in January of 2016. At that time it was found to be in good condition with an average diameter at breast height of 7cm. In the years since it has suffered disturbance due to the need to excavate and remove infrastructure below the subject property. According to those who were present at the time, this excavation ran for the majority of the length of the hedge and within 50cm from the nearby wooden privacy fence which is located on private property. However, judging from my inspection of the hedge again last month, the impact on its health appears to have been minimal. I suspect the loss of roots was not as much as would normally be anticipated. This is likely the result of the long presence of asphalt over much of the subject property – a surface treatment which tends to prevent the growth and development of roots (see Picture 1 on page 2). In fact, according to at least one person who was present at the time, few exposed roots were observed within the excavated trench.

Importantly, under the currently proposed site plan the future excavation for a retaining wall will be no closer than 1.2m from the wooden fence. As the cedar trees are located on the far side of the fence, the actual distance of excavation from the trees will be closer to 1.4m. Regardless, because of the relatively recent excavation to unearth the nearby infrastructure, no further root disturbance will occur. Also, with the final distance to the retaining wall being approximately 3m away, the rooting area available to the cedar trees will be far greater than originally proposed.

Protection and amelioration of the soils within 1.2m of the fence is important, especially during construction. To this end the following measures are recommended:

- 1) Removal of debris from the area within 1.2m of the fence, leveling of soil surface by the addition of topsoil and covering the entire area with 5cm of composted woodchip mulch. This must be done without machinery entering the 1.2m zone.



- 2) Erecting metal construction fence at 1.2m from the wooden fence with signage attached indicating the presence of the fence as a tree protection barrier prohibiting the use of machinery or stock piling of materials within the protected area.
- 3) Once the retaining wall is complete, repeating the soil levelling and mulching between 1.2-3m from the wooden fence and moving the metal construction fence so that it is against the back of the retaining wall. This fence is to remain in place until the completion of all construction.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned with any questions concerning this report.



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Consulting Urban Forester



Picture 1. Cedar hedge to be retained on adjacent private property south of 3368 Carling Ave – photo taken in 2016. Note the presence of asphalt in close proximity to the wooden fence on private property.