

To

Date

Monday October 15, 2012

4 pages from Mario Lanthier

TREE MANAGEMENT ON DEVELOPMENT SITES



The event was held October 11 and 12 in West Vancouver, B.C.

It was organized by Urban Forest Innovative Solutions (Ontario) and hosted by the District of West Vancouver.

About 30 persons attended, mostly City employees from the Coast.

Interacting with planners

by Andrew Sherlock, England (<http://www.barrelltreecare.co.uk/>)

Barrell Tree Consultancy is involved in numerous reviews of construction projects. They assist planners and other professionals involved in the project.

“It is not the role of the arborist to say which trees to keep or to remove. That is the role of the development process and decision makers. The arborist makes a case to retain the good trees and be guardians of those trees for the community.”

Steps during design

- Collect data on-site. The trees are tagged, measured and evaluated.
- The information is put on design plans. Trees to retain are colored green.
- Zone 1 is the root protection zone. Ground disturbance must be carefully controlled.
- Zone 2 is a larger area where the tree may impact construction (debris, shading, etc.).

Steps during construction

- The arborist must work with all personnel involved to ensure common objectives.
- The information presented must be clear and easy to understand by all.

TREE ASSESSMENT USING “TREE AZ”

by Jeremy Barrell, England (<http://www.barrelltreecare.co.uk/>)

Barrell Tree Consultancy developed a structured approach to tree assessment to meet the interpretation of UK planning law as demanded by clients and municipalities.

Version 10 at <http://www.treeaz.com/downloads/Document-10-311210.pdf>.

Category A trees

These are important trees suitable for retention for more than 10 years.

A1: No significant defect and could be retained with minimal remedial care

A2: Minor defects that could be addressed by remedial care

A3: Special significance for historical, cultural, commemorative or rarity reasons

A4: Trees that may be worthy of legal protection for ecological reasons

Category A1 that are large and exceptional can be designated AA, the highest weight in any selection process. These trees are recommended for preservation.

Category Z trees

These are unimportant trees not worthy of being a material constraint.

Z1 to Z3 and trees unsuitable for legal protection.

Z1: Young or insignificant small trees

Z2: Too close to a building

Z3: Species that cannot be protected for other reasons (noxious, out of character)

Z4 to Z6 are trees likely to be removed within 10 years because of health issues.

Z4: Dead, dying, diseased or declining

Z5: Severe damage or defects where a potential for failure cannot be reduced

Z6: Instability (poor anchorage, increase exposure, etc.)

Z7 and Z8 are removed because of unacceptable impact on people or property.

Z7: Excessive, severe and intolerable inconvenience (debris, interference, etc.)

Z8: Excessive and intolerable damage to property (damage to surfacing or building)

Z9 to Z12 are likely to be removed through good management of the tree population.

Z9: Severe damage or structural defects that can be temporarily reduced

Z10: Poor condition or location with a low potential for recovery or improvement

Z11: Removal would benefit better adjacent trees

Z12: Unacceptably expensive to retain (excessive levels of maintenance)

Categories Z4 to Z8 (a high risk of death or failure or causing severe inconvenience) are designated ZZ and are “unsuitable for retention”. In contrast, Z trees do not require urgent removal, but they are not worthy of influencing new designs.

HERITAGE TREES USING “TREE AH”

by Jeremy Barrell, England (<http://www.barrelltreecare.co.uk/>)

Heritage trees have an association with historical events, or possess characteristics that are likely to be valued by future generations. There are many such trees in England, for example yews planted in church yards.

A list of characteristics was developed to assess the heritage potential of trees. More information, including a pdf document, available at <http://www.treeaz.com/>.

Heritage trees fall into one of 3 categories.

- Visually prominent (seen by many people, landmark, very large or spectacular)
- Scientific interest (research value, old, rare or unusual)
- Cultural or social importance (ancient tree or planted by a notable person).

A candidate tree is given a score for each category.

Score 0 if the category is insignificant (for example, no scientific interest)

Score 1 if undecided (for example, unknown if planted by a notable person)

Score 5 if significant (for example, tree known in the region because of its location)

A tree can receive “heritage status” when it scores a minimum of 5 points.

Conservation Arboriculture: Practical approaches to managing heritage trees

by Philip van Wassenaeer, Ontario (www.urbanforestinnovations.com)

In 1993, the “Ancient Tree Forum” was created in the United Kingdom to discuss management of ancient trees. This led in 1996 to the formation of the “Veteran Tree Initiative” to develop standards for identification, assessment and management.

As trees age, they become predisposed to failure or mortality. Yet, these old trees are important habitat for insects and small animals living on dead wood. Crown management on these trees should mimic the natural aging process. This is done by phased pruning that promotes internal branches and stimulates epicormic growth

There are three practical approaches to management of old trees:

1) Crown reduction and retrenchment

- reduce leverage by reducing the length of branches
- replicate the natural limb shedding process

2) Cabling and bracing

- reduce the likelihood of failure at branch unions
- avoid canopy movement beyond structural limits

3) Propping

- support the weight of a large branch
- secure horizontal branches subject to heavy loading and leverage.

PICTURES FROM THE EVENT



Above: Participants during a field exercise.

This group of trees is on a site scheduled for development.

Is a tree important enough to retain? The arborist must be the guardian of the tree.

Is any tree not worthy? The arborist must inform the planner the tree is not a constraint.

Below: Fencing during construction projects.

The fences are installed to prevent unauthorized entry inside the Tree Protection Zone.

The scaffold must be robust, 2.4 meters high, with posts driven into the ground.

Permission can be given to use this area for lunch breaks or storage of light tools.

Pictures from Barrell Consultancy (<http://www.barrelltreecare.co.uk/case-studies/SurfacingNearTrees.pdf>)

