

Our File/N/Réf. 50 68-98-0001; 02-98-0026  
Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 20 October 1998

TO/DEST. The Chair and Members of Council

FROM/EXP. Director, Infrastructure Maintenance Division  
Environment and Transportation Department

SUBJECT/OBJET **FOREST RENEWAL PROGRAM**

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<u>Information Previously Distributed</u> To Be Listed on the Transportation Committee Agenda 4 Nov 98
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### BACKGROUND

Regional Council approved the forest Renewal Program for 1998. This is the first year of a 4-year program developed to provide a full database for the Region's green assets, a full assessment of the extent of damage to those assets by Ice Storm '98, a more complete reduction of hazards to our citizens from the damaged trees and the development of the strategy to restore and improve this Region's green assets.

The Department received an offer of tree seedlings from a Lanark County sugar bush operator during the peak spring clean-up operation of the branches brought down by the ice storm. The donor was advised that we would contact him during the fall period.

The brush clean-up was completed in June and pruning of the tree stocks has continued and is projected to be completed by November.

### DISCUSSION

The Region, as a responsible land manager, has chosen to concentrate its resources since the Ice Storm on the care of the surviving trees by repairing or eliminating damage through pruning and removal operations. This approach has given a much clearer picture of aggregate losses. Future tree hazards could develop as a direct result of the Ice Storm and the inventory will need to be monitored on a continual basis for the next 3-4 years. This first phase of the tree pruning operation is nearing completion permitting your staff to shift attention to replacement of forest cover losses and strategies for replacement.

The Region's Official Plan requires the recognition and protection of woodlots and natural landscapes. Interference with an existing natural forest system to augment another violates this principle and is contrary to sound forest management principles. The Region's practise is to

promote tree conservation and enhancement through Greening programs that identify and implement partnerships at both the community and private stakeholder level. These projects have historically been developed to meet the unique needs of both urban and rural residents of Ottawa-Carleton with the Region committing to the success of these partnerships by providing professional technical assistance and the highest quality resources available.

Risk associated with transplanting is best managed through acquisition of genetically superior stock with the proper form, both above and below ground and is sought through the competitive tendering process. Trees are selected that can grow in the predominant soil conditions found in the Ottawa-Carleton area and which are adaptable to site conditions found in both urban and rural environments. Trees grown under conditions similar to locations where they will grow to maturity, with similar levels of sunlight, rainfall and wind patterns, have been proven to establish more readily to a new site. Local tree specimens have just gone through a major natural disaster in the Ice Storm '98. In addition, young trees growing in a natural forest environment must have random root growth patterns, are particularly sensitive when transferred from shade to full sunlight conditions and from highly gravelly, sandy soils to heavy clays.

Nursery stock is both root and limb pruned to provide a specimen with the best chance of overcoming the shock of the transplanting process, and nursery grown stock comes with survival guarantees which ensures its replacement in the event of failure at no cost to the Region.

By following such a process the Region can ensure that the new trees planted in the Ottawa-Carleton area will remain viable over the long-term and will contribute to the increase of our forest cover.

*Approved by  
W.S. Beveridge, P. Eng.*

WSB/pnb