



**Office Consolidation
Woodlot Conservation By-law 402-2005**

**A by-law to conserve and protect woodlots from the impacts of
development in all areas within the City of Brampton and
to repeal By-law No. 70-2001**

WHEREAS subsection 135(1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* (the “Act”), as amended, provides that a local municipality may prohibit or regulate the destructions or injuring of trees;

WHEREAS subsection 135(2) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* (the “Act”), as amended, provides that Regional Council may by by-law prohibit or regulate the destruction or injuring of trees in woodlands that are one hectare or more in area designated in the by-law;

AND WHEREAS subsection 135(8) of the Act provides that an upper-tier municipality may delegate all or part of its power to pass a by-law respecting the destruction or injuring of trees in woodlands that are one hectare or more in area to one or more of its lower-tier municipalities with the agreement of the lower-tier municipality;

AND WHEREAS the Region of Peel Council delegates its authority to the City of Brampton under subsection 135(8) on December 15, 2005;

AND WHEREAS subsection 135(7) of the Act provides that the by-law may require that a permit be obtained to injure or destroy trees and may impose conditions to a permit, including conditions relating to the manner in which destruction occurs and the qualifications of persons authorized to injure or destroy trees;

AND WHEREAS City Council has determined that it is desirable to enact such a by-law for the purpose of achieving the objectives of the City’s Official Plan by sustaining a healthy natural environment while also having regard to good forestry practices;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The City of Brampton hereby enacts as follows:

1. DEFINITIONS

1.1 In this by-law:

- (a) "Act" means the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended;
- (b) "building permit" means a building permit issued under the Building Code Act, 1992, S.O. 1992, c. 23, as amended;
- (c) "bush cord" means a volume of wood equivalent to 3.62 cubic metres (128 cubic feet);
- (d) "Certified Tree Marker" means:
 - (i) an individual who has successfully completed the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Certified Tree Marker course;
 - (ii) a Registered Professional Forester; or
 - (iii) a member in good standing of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association;
- (e) "circumference" means the measurement of the outer boundary of the stem or trunk of a tree, including the bark;
- (f) "City" means The Corporation of the City of Brampton;
- (g) "City Council" means the Council of The Corporation of the City of Brampton;
- (h) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Planning Design and Development Department of the City of Brampton or his designate;
- (i) "DBH" means the diameter of the stem or trunk of a tree at a point of measurement 1.37 metres (137 centimeters) from the ground;
- (j) "good forestry practices" means the proper implementation of harvest, renewal and maintenance activities known to be appropriate for the forest and environmental conditions under which they are being applied and that minimize detriments to forest values including significant ecosystems, important fish and wildlife habitat, soil and water quality and quantity, forest productivity and health and the aesthetics and recreational opportunities of the landscape;
- (k) "injury to a tree" means lasting damage to a tree which has the effect of inhibiting or terminating its growth, but does not include pruning or removing branches for maintenance purposes;

- (l) “nursery stock” means coniferous or hardwood seedlings, transplants, grafts, or trees propagated or grown in a nursery and with the roots attached, and includes cuttings with or without the roots attached;
- (m) “officer” means an individual appointed by City Council for the administration and enforcement of this by-law and such individual is hereby designated as an officer pursuant to subsection 135(11) of the Act;
- (n) “owner” means a person having any right, title, interest or equity in land or any such person’s authorized representative;
- (o) “Permit” means a permit to injure or destroy trees issued under section 5 of this bylaw;
- (p) “person” includes an individual, a corporation, and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, or other duly appointed representatives;
- (q) “point of measurement” means a point on a tree measured from the highest point at which the tree meets the ground;
- (r) “Registered Professional Forester” means a member of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association entitled to use the designation “Registered Professional Forester” under the Professional Foresters Act, 2000, S.O. 2000, c.18;
- (s) “silviculture” means the theory and practice of controlling forest establishment, and the composition, growth and quality of forests to achieve the objectives of forest management;
- (t) “silvicultural prescription” means a site specific operational plan that describes the existing forest conditions and the forest management objectives for an area, and which prescribes the methods for harvesting the existing forest stand and a series of silvicultural treatments that will be carried out to establish a free growing stand in a manner that accommodates other resource values as identified;
- (u) “tree” means any species of woody perennial plant, including its root system, which has reached or can reach a height of at least 4.5 metres at physiological maturity, provided that where multiple stems grow from the same root system, the number of trees shall be the number of stems that can be counted at a point of measurement 1.37 metres from the ground;
- (v) “Upper-tier municipality” means the Regional Municipality of Peel;

- (w) “woodlots” means land at least 0.2 hectares in area, including woodlands as defined in the Act, with at least:
 - (i) 200 trees, of any size, per 0.2 hectare;
 - (ii) 150 trees, measuring over five (5) centimeters DBH, per 0.2 hectare;
 - (iii) 100 trees, measuring over twelve (12) centimeters DBH, per 0.2 hectare; or
 - (iv) 50 trees, measuring over twenty (20) centimeters DBH, per 0.2 hectare; but does not include a cultivated fruit or nut orchard, a plantation established for the purpose of producing Christmas trees or nursery stock.

2. SCOPE OF BY-LAW

- 2.1 This by-law applies to all woodlots in the City of Brampton, subject to the exemptions noted in Section 3.
- 2.2 For the purpose of subsection 2.1 of this by-law, the effective date of delegation by the upper-tier municipality shall be the date on which a resolution is passed by the upper-tier municipality authorizing the delegation.

3. EXEMPTIONS

- 3.1 Despite section 2 of this by-law, this by-law does not apply to:
 - (a) activities or matters undertaken by a municipality or a local board of a municipality;
 - (b) activities or matters undertaken under a license issued under the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994*;
 - (c) the injuring or destruction of trees by a person licensed under the *Surveyors Act* to engage in the practice of cadastral surveying, or his or her agent, while making a survey;
 - (d) the injuring or destruction of trees imposed after December 31, 2002 as a condition to the approval of a site plan, a plan of subdivision or a consent under section 41, 51, or 53, respectively, of the *Planning Act* or as a requirement of a site plan agreement or subdivision agreement entered into under those sections;
 - (e) the injuring or destruction of trees imposed after December 31, 2002 as a condition to a development permit authorized by regulation made under section 70.2 of the *Planning Act* or as a requirement of an agreement entered into under the regulation;
 - (f) the injuring or destruction of trees by a transmitter or distributor, as those terms are defined in section 2 of the *Electricity Act, 1998*, for the purpose of constructing and maintaining a transmission system or a distribution system, as those terms are defined in that section;

- (g) the injuring or destruction of trees undertaken on land described in a license for a pit or quarry or a permit for a wayside pit or wayside quarry issued under the *Aggregate Resources Act*;
- (h) the injuring or destruction of trees undertaken on land in order to lawfully establish and operate or enlarge any pit or quarry on land,
 - (i) that has not been designated under the *Aggregate Resources Act* or a predecessor of that Act; and
 - (ii) on which a pit or quarry is a permitted land use under a by-law passed under section 34 of the *Planning Act*.
- (i) the injuring or destruction of trees required in order to erect a building or structure, in respect of which a building permit has been issued, provided that the total area within which trees are injured or destroyed is within 15 metres of the outer edge of the building or structure or proposed building or structure;
- (j) the injuring or destruction of trees that is reasonably required in order to install and provide utilities to the construction or use of a building or structure in respect of which a building permit has been issued, including the installation of a primary septic bed;
- (k) the injuring or destruction of trees that is reasonably required in order to install and provide utilities to a single lane driveway for vehicular access to a building or structure in respect of which a building permit has been issued;
- (l) the injuring or destruction of trees provided that no more than the equivalent of six (6) bush cords of wood are injured or destroyed in a calendar year from an owner's property, and that the injuring or destruction of trees is consistent with good forestry practices;
- (m) the injuring or destruction of Eastern White Cedar trees provided that no more than the equivalent of three (3) bush cords of wood are injured or destroyed in a calendar year from an owner's property for the purpose of maintaining existing fencing, and that the injuring or destruction of trees is in accordance with good forestry practices; or
- (n) the injuring or destruction of trees that are in a hazardous condition.

4. PROHIBITION

- 4.1 No person shall cause or permit the injuring or destruction of a tree growing in woodlots:
 - (a) unless exempted by section 3 of this by-law; or
 - (b) except in accordance with a permit issued under section 5 of this by-law.
- 4.2 No person shall:
 - (a) contravene the terms or conditions of a permit issued under this by-law; or
 - (b) cause or permit the contravention of the terms or conditions of a permit issued under this by-law.
- 4.3. No person shall fail to comply with an order issued under this by-law or remove or deface any order that has been posted pursuant to this by-law.

5. PERMITS

- 5.1 The City hereby delegates to the Commissioner the power to issue a Permit under subsections 5.2 and 5.3 of this by-law, and to impose conditions to such Permits in accordance with good forestry practices and subsection 6.7 of this by-law.
- 5.2 The City may issue a Permit to permit the injuring or destruction of trees within a woodlot provided that the injuring or destruction of trees is conducted in accordance with good forestry practices as prescribed in a silvicultural prescription prepared by:
- (a) a Registered Professional Forester, or
 - (b) a member in good standing of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association who is authorized to prepare silvicultural prescriptions;
- and provided further that the trees to be injured or destroyed are marked, in accordance with the prescription, by a Certified Tree Marker.
- 5.3 The City may issue a Permit to permit the injuring or destruction of trees in a woodlot provided that the injuring or destruction of trees is conducted in accordance with a forest management plan prepared for the purposes of the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program, and provided that:
- (a) a copy of the approved forest management plan is submitted to the City with the application;
 - (b) the trees are marked with paint in accordance with the management plan and to the satisfaction of an officer; and
 - (c) the officer is satisfied that the injuring or destruction of trees is consistent with good forestry practices.
- 5.4 Where a person intends to injure or destroy trees and the proposed activity does not meet the requirements set out in subsection 5.2 or 5.3 of this by-law, an application may be made for a special Permit under subsection 5.5 of this by-law.
- 5.5 The City may issue a special Permit to permit the injuring or destruction of trees provided that City Council is satisfied that the injuring or destruction of trees will be in compliance with agricultural and natural environment policies adopted by City Council from time to time, and the City may impose conditions to such Permits in accordance with good forestry practices and subsection 6.7 of this by-law.

6. APPLICATION PROCESS

- 6.1 Every person who intends to injure or destroy a tree in a woodlot where a Permit to do so is required under this by-law shall first complete and submit an application for a Permit in the form approved by the City from time to time.

- 6.2 An application for a Permit shall:
- (a) be accompanied by the applicable fee as prescribed in Schedule "A"; and
 - (b) contain a description of the proposed activity.
- 6.3 An application for a Permit shall be deemed incomplete, and no Permit shall be issued if:
- (a) the application has not been completed in full;
 - (b) the owner of the woodlot has not signed the application;
 - (c) the party who will be undertaking or responsible for the injuring or destruction of trees has not signed the application; or
 - (d) the application fee has not been paid.
- 6.4 In addition to the requirements set out in subsections 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 of this by-law, an application for a Permit approved under subsection 5.2 shall include:
- (a) a silvicultural prescription prepared in accordance with subsection 5.2 of this by-law and the name of the Certified Tree Marker who marked the trees to be injured or destroyed in accordance with the prescription; or
- 6.6 In addition to the requirements set out in subsections 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 of this by-law, an application for a Permit approved under subsection 5.3 shall include:
- (a) a copy of the approved forest management plan prepared for the purposes of the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program, in accordance with subsection 5.3 of this by-law.
- 6.6 Upon receipt by the City of an application for a Permit, the owner shall permit an officer to enter upon his or her property and undertake such site inspections as may be required to consider the application. An officer may undertake a site inspection prior to, during and after the proposed activity.
- 6.7 The City may impose conditions to a Permit that may include:
- (a) the manner and timing in which the injuring or destruction of trees is to be carried out;
 - (b) the qualifications of persons authorized to injure or destroy trees;
 - (c) the species, size, number and location of replacement trees to be planted; and
 - (d) measures to be implemented to mitigate the direct and indirect effects of the injuring or destruction of trees on the natural environment.
- 6.8 A Permit issued pursuant to this by-law shall expire one year after the date of issuance, provided that the Commissioner may, upon the request of the owner, renew the Permit for a further period of one year.
- 6.9 A decision regarding an application for a Permit shall not be made by the City until such time as all the required documents have been filed, the applicable fee has been paid and any required inspections have been undertaken.

- 6.10 An application for a Permit shall not be deemed to be received by the City until such time as all requirements under section 6 of this by-law have been fulfilled by the applicant.

7. ORDERS TO DISCONTINUE ACTIVITY

- 7.1 Where the Commissioner or officer is satisfied that a contravention of this by-law has occurred, the Commissioner or officer may make an order requiring the person who contravened the by-law or who caused or permitted the injuring or destruction of trees in contravention of the by-law to stop the injuring or destruction of trees.
- 7.2 An order issued under this section may be served personally or served by sending it by mail to the last known address of:
- (a) the owner of the woodlots; and
 - (b) the corporation, company, person or persons identified as injuring or destroying a tree or trees.
- 7.3 Where service of an order is made by mail, service shall be deemed to have been effected on the fifth day after the order is mailed.
- 7.4 Where service cannot be carried out under subsection 7.2 of this by-law, the Commissioner or officer shall place a placard containing the terms of the order in a conspicuous place on the owner's property, and the placing of the placard shall be deemed to be sufficient service of the order on the person or persons to whom the order is directed.

8. APPEALS TO THE ONTARIO MUNICIPAL BOARD

- 8.1 Pursuant to section 136 of the Act, an applicant for a Permit may appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board:
- (a) if the City refuses to issue a Permit, within 30 days after the refusal;
 - (b) if the City fails to make a decision on the application, within 45 days after the application is received by the City; or
 - (c) if the applicant objects to a condition in the Permit, within 30 days after the issuance of the Permit.

9. ENFORCEMENT

- 9.1 The provisions of this by-law may be enforced by an officer appointed by City Council for the administration and enforcement of this by-law.
- 9.2 Pursuant to subsection 137(1) of the Act, the Commissioner or officer may, at any reasonable time, enter and inspect any land to determine whether this by-law, an order under this by-law, a condition to a Permit, or a court order under subsection 138 (2) of the Act is being complied with.
- 9.3 For the purpose of determining compliance with this by-law, “DBH” shall be used determine whether a tree which has been injured or destroyed would have attained the minimum measurement required by this by-law.

10. PENALTIES

- 10.1 Any person who contravenes any provision of this by-law, or an order issued under section 137(3) of the Act is guilty of an offence and is liable:
- (a) on first conviction, to a fine of not more than \$10,000 or \$1,000 per tree, whichever is greater; and
 - (b) on any subsequent conviction, to a fine of not more than \$25,000 or \$2,500 per tree, whichever is greater.
- 10.2 Despite subsection 10.1 of this by-law, where the person convicted is a corporation,
- (a) the maximum fines in subsection 10.1 (a) are \$50,000 or \$5,000 per tree, whichever is greater; and
 - (b) the maximum fines in subsection 10.1 (b) are \$100,000 or \$10,000 per tree, whichever is greater.

11. REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION

- 11.1 An owner of a property shall be presumed to have injured or destroyed or caused or permitted to be injured or destroyed a tree growing in a woodlot, or contravened or caused or permitted the contravention of the terms or conditions of a Permit issued under this by-law, as the case may be, which presumption may be rebutted by evidence to the contrary on a balance of probabilities.

12. GENERAL

- 12.1 Schedule "A" forms part of this bylaw
- 12.2 The short title of this by-law is the "Woodlot Conservation By-law".
- 12.3 By-law No. 70-2001 is repealed effective January 1, 2006.
- 12.4 Despite subsection 12.3 of this by-law, By-law No. 70-2001 shall continue to apply to proceedings in respect of matters that were initiated prior to its repeal.
- 12.5 This by-law shall come into effect on January 1, 2006.

READ a first, second and third time and PASSED in OPEN COUNCIL, this 12th day of December 2005.

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF BRAMPTON

Original signed by:
Susan Fennell – Mayor
Leonard J. Mikulich – Clerk

Schedule A to By-law 402-2005

PERMIT FEE

\$250.00

Where the OWNER/APPLICANT is a bona fide farmer as demonstrated by providing a 'Farm Business Registration Number' on the application, as defined in the *Farm Registration and Farm Organization Funding Act, 1993*, S.O. 1993, c.21 the PERMIT FEE shall be:
\$25.00