

Northern parts of town targeted in trimming program

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Tree trimming is required to reduce the risk of trees or branches bringing down power lines or starting fires and Skidmore said that a tree can become energized if it makes contact with the lines causing an electrocution hazard. Trees touching the lines can also result in nuisance outages.

"We value the trees in our community and understand that they are an important asset for Halton Hills," said Skidmore. "We trim to the health of the tree. Some of our residents may not appreciate that."

He said that trimming can actually help the tree become more healthy.

"We cut to the lateral branches or main trunk, leaving stubs is hard on the tree and can cause die-off."

Skidmore showed several photos of trees throughout town that had been dramatically trimmed to meet the clearance requirements.

"I appreciate you being brutally honest," said Councillor Ann Lawlor. "I think there might be some that



A Halton Hills Hydro graphic shows the proper trimming techniques used by the trimmers.

would use the word 'butcher' in describing what's happening to these trees."

Lawlor added, however, "the reality is this is what we have to do in order

to safely and reliably ensure electricity gets into our houses."

After viewing the before and after photos of the trees Councillor Bob Inglis asked if HHH ever considered

taking a tree down completely rather than trimming it so much.

"If the tree is still healthy, we would leave the tree," said Skidmore. "It's not our call to take down a healthy tree." He added if it can't be trimmed to the point where it's still healthy, they do take it down.

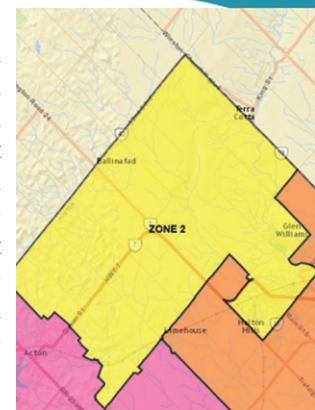
Inglis also asked if HHH had ever looked at burying its existing hydro lines underground.

Skidmore said it wouldn't be cost effective and he doubts they would receive approval to do it from the Ontario Energy Board. Hydro lines are buried in new subdivisions.

The 2015 line clearance program is expected to be finished by the end of May and has a \$295,000 budget.

HHH will put a door knocker (in-

2015 Tree Trimming



Halton Hills Hydro graphic

formation flyer) on homes in the area where they will be trimming a week before they start.

PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting will be held Thursday, Jan. 22 at Williams Mill in Glen Williams from 6 to 8 p.m. to discuss the 2015 line clearance schedule. A map of the area is available at www.haltonhillshydro.com

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