

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT PLAN TO PROTECT LOCAL TREES

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Halton Hills council has approved a plan designed to help local residents protect and preserve their trees.

Here are five things to know about the privately-owned Tree Management Strategy:

1. When preparing the document, mapping was done that concluded 83 per cent of the town's tree canopy is on private property, while five per cent is on municipal land, and the remaining 12 per cent is owned by public agencies.

"Most of the trees in Halton Hills are on private property; therefore, owners of these lands have a key role in contributing to the town's efforts in preserving, protecting and enhancing the tree canopy in Halton Hills," said a report from cli-

mate change outreach coordinator Jennifer Spence.

2. The strategy includes a range of education, incentive and regulation-based tree management tools recommended for implementation in the next five years, depending on the municipality's financial and staff resources at the time.

3. Options being considered include: educational workshops, a second annual discounted tree sale at the Robert Austin Operations Centre or discount coupon through a local grower to encourage tree planting, a town subsidy to plant larger trees on private land, and the creation of a private tree bylaw.

4. According to the strategy, there are many pressures threatening the town's tree canopy today, such as: climate change, invasive plant species, introduced pests such as the em-



Justin Greaves/Metroland

The majority of trees in Halton Hills are on private property.

erald ash borer and LDD moth, and increased development density and infrastructure requirements reducing growing space for trees.

"The status quo is not an option if we are to protect and enhance the tree canopy," notes the strategy.

5. Further details can be found at bit.ly/332yRae.



By Cory Soal
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