

Eco Tree Care LTD
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Arborist Report

Prepared by

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Prepared for

Michael Bell

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Locations

4C Will Street

Abbotsford

Introduction

Eco Tree Care LTD was asked by Michael Bell to conduct an visual ground inspection and provide an arborist report for the scheduled ash tree (*Fraxinus nigra*) located on the north side of the section (figure 1). The reason for this report is the homeowner would like the tree removed and the council requires a report of the trees health and any concerns or notes of interest that involve the tree. A qualified arborist provided by Eco Tree Care was tasked to provide an assessment of the trees affected by the proposed work for removal of the effected tree.

Inspection

Upon final inspection by the arborist on October 27th, 2023, the weather conditions were mild temperature on a partially cloudy, windy day. The ash tree is privately owned by Michael Bell. The tree is located to the north side of Michael's house approximately 2.5M away with three limbs overhanging the house and powerlines on the north side of the tree. There was an initial inspection carried out by the arborist on site with Michael, property owner, who informed me of the history of the tree since they have been living there for the past 7 years. Since he and his wife have lived there, they have said that during any high wind event they have had branches up to 75MM in diameter come down and strike the house and garden shed underneath. They have also stated that the roots of the tree have been affecting their footpaths and garden shed by raising the concrete and cracking the ash felt (Figure 2A, 2B). Due to the close proximity of the trees base to the house (Figure 2C) and evidence of large diameter roots (Figure 2D) heading north towards the driveway there is a possibility that the roots can be interfering with the home's foundation and plumbing. The root flare and base of the tree are in good condition with no visible defects or wounds and have a healthy taper up to the first two main stems of the tree. The two main stems from a visual ground inspection appear to have a healthy union with no visible defects or abnormalities (Figure 3). Roughly about 2M above the union of the two main stems they branch off into 5 leaders, two on the north side of the tree and three on the south side of the tree. These leaders appear to have no visual defects and form a normal union. The canopy of the tree was starting to come into leaf with epicormic growth forming throughout the middle of the canopy and along most of the limbs. I estimate that about 10% of the canopy is deadwood with some deadwood over the house (figure 4A) and over the driveway (figure 4C) ranging from 25mm-100mm in size.

The tree has been pruned in the past by a utility company to clear the nearby powerlines and by a private company in the past 5 years with pruning cuts beginning to seal over. Overall, the tree's health appears to be in good condition with no visible defects or abnormalities and is showing signs of healthy response growth to the pruning done previously. In a 5-year timeframe I would rate the risk of the overhanging limbs above the house as low and the south side stem closest to the house a risk rating of moderate. The overhanging limbs on the north side of the tree above the powerlines and garden shed have a risk rating of low with the north side stem leading towards the powerlines and shed having a risk rating as moderate.

Discussion

The goal of this report is to provide an independent report of the tree per request by the council. Although the tree is in good overall health with a risk rating of low to moderate there is a real concern from the homeowners who occupy the house regularly throughout the day with their bedroom located beneath the tree. They have said that on days and nights where there are winds of any force, they often hear branches fall from the tree and strike the roof. This causes them to sleep elsewhere in the house from fear of a larger branch dropping and possibly injuring them. This over the years has led to them avoiding being in half the house and significantly reduces their enjoyment of their section. There is also the potential for the roots to be interfering with the house's foundation but there is no way to be certain unless there is a root inspection carried out with an air spade.

Proposed plan

Tree works will be performed by trained and qualified arborists only. It is recommended that the ash tree be regularly maintained by pruning away deadwood, epicormic growth where necessary, and a cabling system installed to reduce risk of whole stem failure. If the tree is to be removed it should be replaced, if possible, by more suitable trees. Suggested trees for replacement are *Metrosideros excelsa*, *Vitex lucens*, & *Sophora microphylla*.

Conclusion

Eco Tree Care trusts that the information provided will be helpful and accurate and, if possible, replaced trees where need be. Additionally, I hope that this report has all the information you required. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Best regards,

William Hagendorn, ISA ON 1905-A

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