

YOUR GUIDE TO TREE BY-LAW CITY OF SARNIA



On October 23, 2017, Sarnia City Council will decide whether to adopt a new tree by-law that would require private property owners to apply for a permit in order to remove, injure or destroy a tree. Public input is open until October 1.

WHY A TREE BY-LAW?

Sarnia City Council is considering this bylaw to respond to multiple complaints each year about trees being destroyed.

If the by-law is adopted as written, what types of trees would be protected?

All endangered or at-risk species of trees.

All other trees, including their root systems, that have or can reach a height of at least 4.5 metres at maturity and are over 20 cm in Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)

Includes trees that are:

- healthy, dead, diseased and dying
- causing or could cause damage
- potentially hazardous or noxious

When would a permit not be required?

Basic pruning in accordance with good arboricultural practices.

The tree is located inside a building, rooftop garden, courtyard or cultivated orchard/nursery/tree farm

Trees located in in areas already covered by the County of Lambton Woodlands Conservation By-law

How much would a permit cost?

The fees have not been set yet.

What would be required to apply for a permit?

A written application and a plan or drawing of your property.

Payment of the fee.

In some cases, the written consent of a direct neighbour and/or a report from an arborist.

Who would approve the permit?

A Tree Officer would assess applications and approve or deny permits.

Permits may be approved if:

The tree is dead or structurally unsound

It is causing or likely to cause danger

Its destruction is in accordance with good arboricultural practices

The tree is in a bad location and can't be maintained

The surrounding soil needs to be remediated

The tree will be relocated safely

It's required by the Ontario Municipal Board

Trees are invasive species

Penalties

The penalty for not obtaining a permit would be \$5,000 fine.

Enforcement

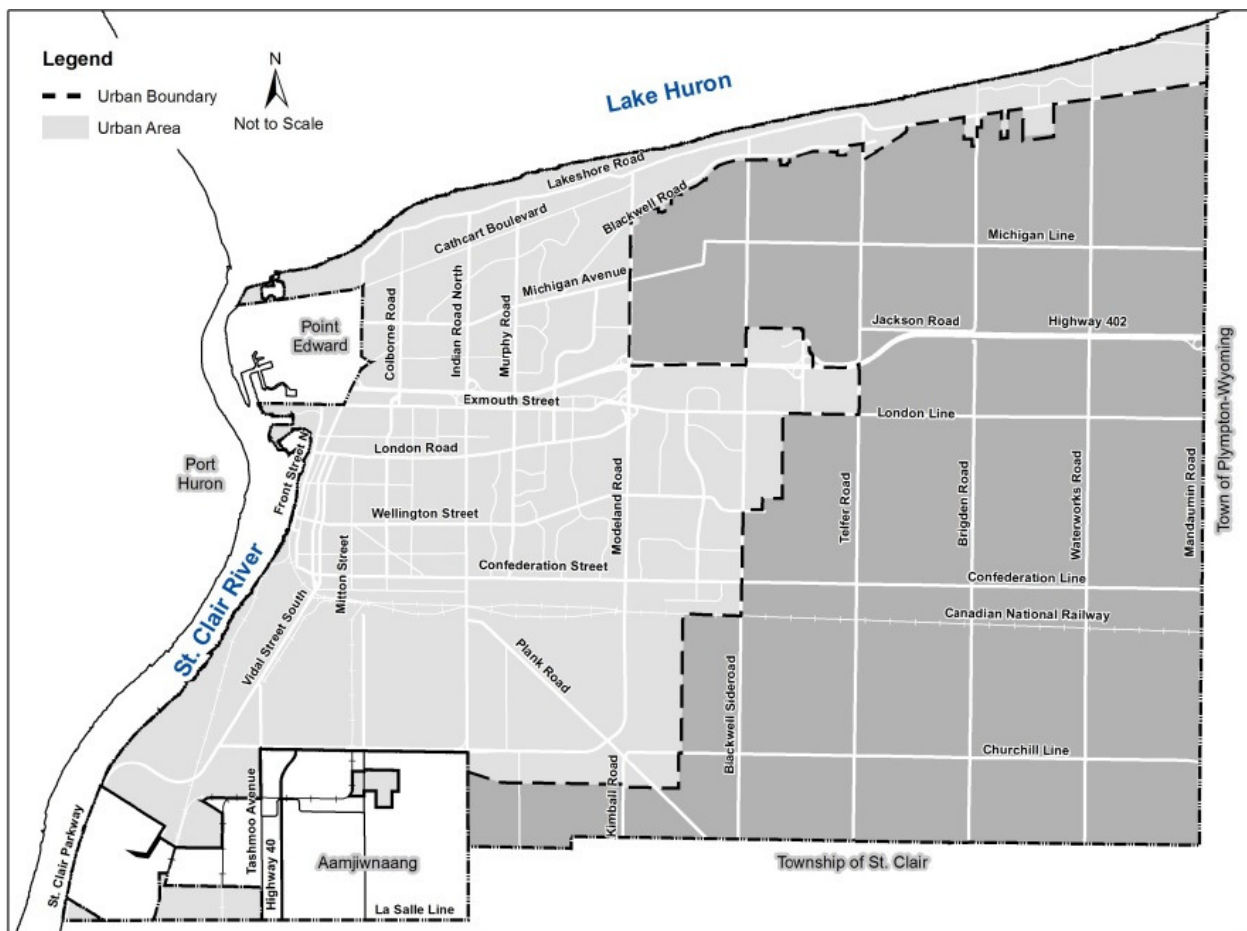
The City could enter a private property and remedy the lands with no liability to or compensation for the owner.

The City could recover related costs from the owner.

An officer could enter any private property to inspect it at any reasonable time.

Appeals

The Director of Planning would have the final authority and there would be no mechanism in place for third party appeals.



The by-law covers private properties located in the Urban Area as shown in the map.

TAKE ACTION Sarnia residents have until October 1 to:
Take the survey: http://planning.smartsarnia.com/tree-by-law-questionnaire/
Email the City: trees@sarnia.ca
Write to: City of Sarnia, Attn: Planning and Building Department, 255 N. Christina St., Sarnia, ON, N7T 7N2
Email the Chamber: speakup@slchamber.ca

RESOURCES

The following documents are posted on SmartSarnia.com

[Council Report - Draft Tree By-law, June 19, 2017](#)

[Tree by-law report, July 11, 2016](#)

[Council resolution, July 11, 2016](#)

[County of Lambton Woodlands Conservation By-law](#)

[Section 4.3 – Natural Heritage \(Official Plan excerpt\)](#)

[Section 5.12 – Natural Environment \(Official Plan excerpt\)](#)