

Gow's Bridge



Linking the Old University Neighbourhood to the City of Guelph since 1897

Old University Neighbourhood Residents' Association Inc.

Letter to Guelph City Council Re: Proposed Tree Bylaw

April 2025

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

The Old University Neighbourhood Residents Association (OUNRA) strongly supports the proposed tree bylaw that would extend protection to all city properties and include trees of both 50cm and 30cm diameter.

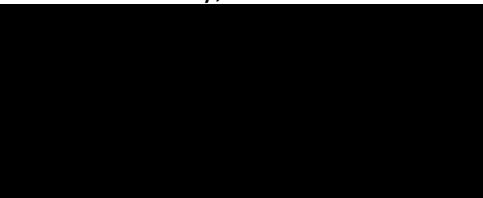
Our community treasures the tree canopy that defines our neighborhood. In our 2022 survey, residents identified trees and nature as the most valued aspect of living in our area. We've witnessed firsthand how intensive development that maximizes lot coverage has resulted in clear-cutting, highlighting the need for stronger protections.

This bylaw affirms the value of trees for city health, climate change mitigation, and progress toward Guelph's 40% canopy goal by 2070. While we recognize financial considerations exist, we hope the city's commitment to a healthy urban forest remains paramount.

We encourage the city to complement this bylaw with educational programs promoting tree planting and proper tree care. The community tree plantings many of you have participated in demonstrate the shared commitment to transforming Guelph through urban forestry.

We urge you to pass this bylaw for the benefit of current and future generations.

Sincerely,



John Lawson
Past-President - On Behalf of OUNRA