

November 18, 2013

Ms. Délia Iafrate Eagle Valley Golf Club 2334 St. Paul Ave. Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6S4

Dear Mr. Iafrate,

#### RE: Honey Locust Tree Assessment – Eagle Valley Golf Club

Thank you for contacting Colville Consulting regarding the assessment of Honey Locust trees on the Eagle Valley Golf Club property, in the City of Niagara Falls. It is our understanding that seven Honey Locust trees have been identified adjacent to lands that are designated for residential development. This letter report is intended to assess potential impacts to these Honey Locust trees.

#### Background

It is our understanding that an Arborist Report has been prepared in support of the development of this property, however during the completion of this report seven Honey Locust trees were identified on and adjacent to the Subject Lands. Subsequent to the completion of the Arborist Report, the locations of these trees were surveyed by the Larocque Group and are illustrated in Appendix A of this report. For ease of reference and description, individual trees have been assigned numerical identifiers 1 through 7. Additionally, to illustrate and describe the extent of proposed works, a grading plan is included in Appendix B.

#### **Description of Trees**

In order to assess the potential impacts to Honey Locust trees, Colville Consulting staff visited the site on November 6, 2013 and conducted a visual assessment of tree form and relative health. As part of this assessment, the extent of tree roots was estimated by measuring the approximate limit of the drip-lines and incorporating an additional 1-2m, as tree roots typically extend beyond the drip-line. The estimated extent of tree roots is illustrated on the figure in Appendix A. A description of each tree is provided below and photos of each tree are provided in Appendix C.

#### Tree 1

Tree # 1 is located adjacent to Mountain Road, in close proximity to the planned Mountain Road entrance to the Subject Property (see Appendix A). Based on our assessment, this tree appears to have experienced significant pruning to minimize interference with hydro wires, a practice which appears to have negatively affected tree health. From our assessment, Tree #1 appears to be in poor condition.

Since pruning appears to have limited the extent of the tree crown, we estimated that the tree roots extend beyond the drip-line of this tree, likely to approximately 5m from the trunk. Assuming tree roots extend approximately 5m from the base, it is our opinion that the majority of tree roots will not be significantly impacted by the construction of the driveway entrance or grading works, and provided the

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mitigation measures recommended below are implemented during construction, tree health should not be impacted by the proposed development.

#### <u>Tree 2</u>

Similar to Tree #1, this tree is also located adjacent to Mountain Road and appears to have experienced significant pruning by hydro crews. Based on our assessment, Tree #2 appears to be in poor condition. From our assessment, it appears that the roots of this tree are located outside any area proposed for construction or grading, and therefore it is our opinion that the proposed works will have no direct impact on the health of Tree #2.

#### *Trees 3 and 4*

Tree numbers 3 and 4 are also located on Mountain Road, near the intersection of St. Paul Avenue. These are the smallest of the Honey Locust trees adjacent to Mountain Road. From our assessment, Tree #3 appears to be in poor condition, while tree #4 is in fair condition. Based on our estimates, the drip-line of these trees extend approximately 3m from the trunk, although it is assumed roots likely extend an additional 1-2m beyond the drip-line. Based on our assumption of the root extents, Trees 3 and 4 will not be impacted by the proposed development.

#### <u>Trees 5-7</u>

As illustrated in Appendix A, Trees 5-7 are located adjacent to St. Paul Avenue, all in very close proximity to one another. It should be noted that these trees are all located on a steep slope, approximately 1m from the top of the slope. Based on our assessment, these trees range in size from approximately 12cm to 22cm in diameter and are all in good condition. Although drip-lines vary for these trees, we estimate that the maximum extent of branches extend to approximately 9m from the tree trunks, with some roots possibly extending beyond the drip-line.

As illustrated in Appendix A, the St. Paul Avenue entrance is located well outside of the drip line of these trees, and therefore it is not likely that the driveway will significantly impact the health of Trees 5-7. From our review of the grading plan, it appears that fill is intended to be placed near periphery of the drip-line, however provided the mitigation measures below are implemented, impacts to tree health can be minimized.

#### **Recommended Mitigation Measures**

As indicated above, it is our opinion that the proposed project will not have a significant impact on any of the Honey Locust trees, however minor impacts to Trees 1 and 5-7 are possible. In order to minimize any impacts to these trees, or other trees to be retained in close proximity of the work area, it is our recommendation that the following mitigation measures be implemented prior to and during construction to protect the health of trees.

- A limit of work fence should be installed where possible no less than 1m from the drip-line of remaining trees to minimize root compaction and injury;
- Grading and placing of fill should be avoided within the drip-line of any trees to remain on site. Any fill to be placed within the drip-lines should be composed of sandy material to maintain gas exchange by the root system;
- In the event any lateral tree roots are encountered and damaged, the following tree root pruning procedures are recommended:
  - a. Make vertical cuts through the root zone to avoid impacting unnecessary roots

- If a major root (greater than 5 cm) is torn by a non-vertical cut, manually sheer the root with a flush cut;
- b. Avoid removing or impacting more than 25% of the tree roots under the drip-line;
- c. Make sure vertically cut roots are covered with moist soil as soon as possible (within 24 hr of exposure);
- d. Water the impacted trees thoroughly following construction activities; and
- e. Do not fertilize trees that have had their roots cut for one year.

### Conclusion,

Colville Consulting was retained to assess potential impacts to seven Honey Locust trees located on and adjacent to the Subject Property. Based on our primary assessment of the trees and our understanding of the proposed project, it is our opinion that the construction of the Mountain Road entrance to the Subject Property may have a minor impact on the roots of Tree #1 and the filling works associated with the parking area may have a minor impact on Trees 5-7. As Honey Locust trees are known to have a high degree of adaptability to environmental change<sup>1</sup> and impacts to trees are considered minor, it is our opinion that the proposed project will have no impact on the longevity of these trees.

Thank you for providing Colville Consulting the opportunity to prepare this assessment. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 905-935-2161 should you have any questions or concerns regarding this report. Alternatively you can reach me by email at <u>ian@colvilleconsultinginc.com</u>.

Yours Sincerely,

Ian Barrett, M.Sc. Colville Consulting Inc.

<sup>1</sup>Dennis, C. and W.R. Jacobi. 2008. Protecting Trees during Construction. Colorado State University Fact Sheet No. 7.420. (<u>http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/garden/07420.html</u>).

### Appendix A

Location of Honey Locust Trees and Estimated Extent of Roots



# Appendix B

Site Servicing and Grading Plan



# Appendix C

Photos of Honey Locust Trees



Tree #1.



Tree #2



Tree #3



Tree #4



Trees 5-7.